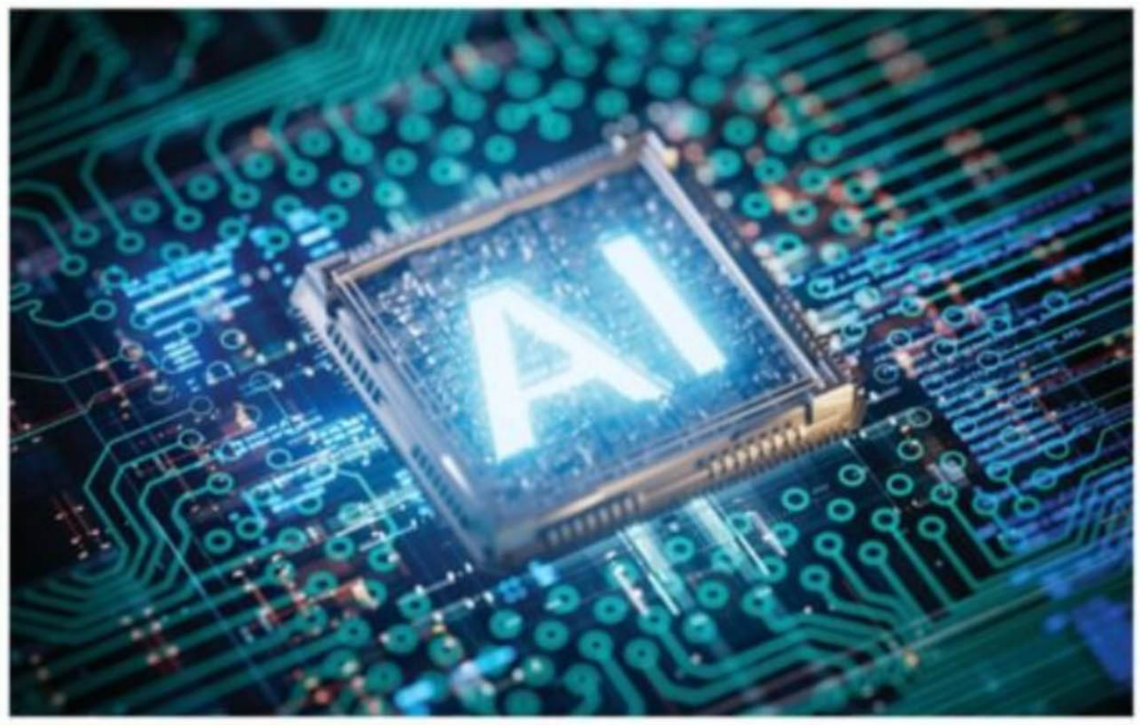
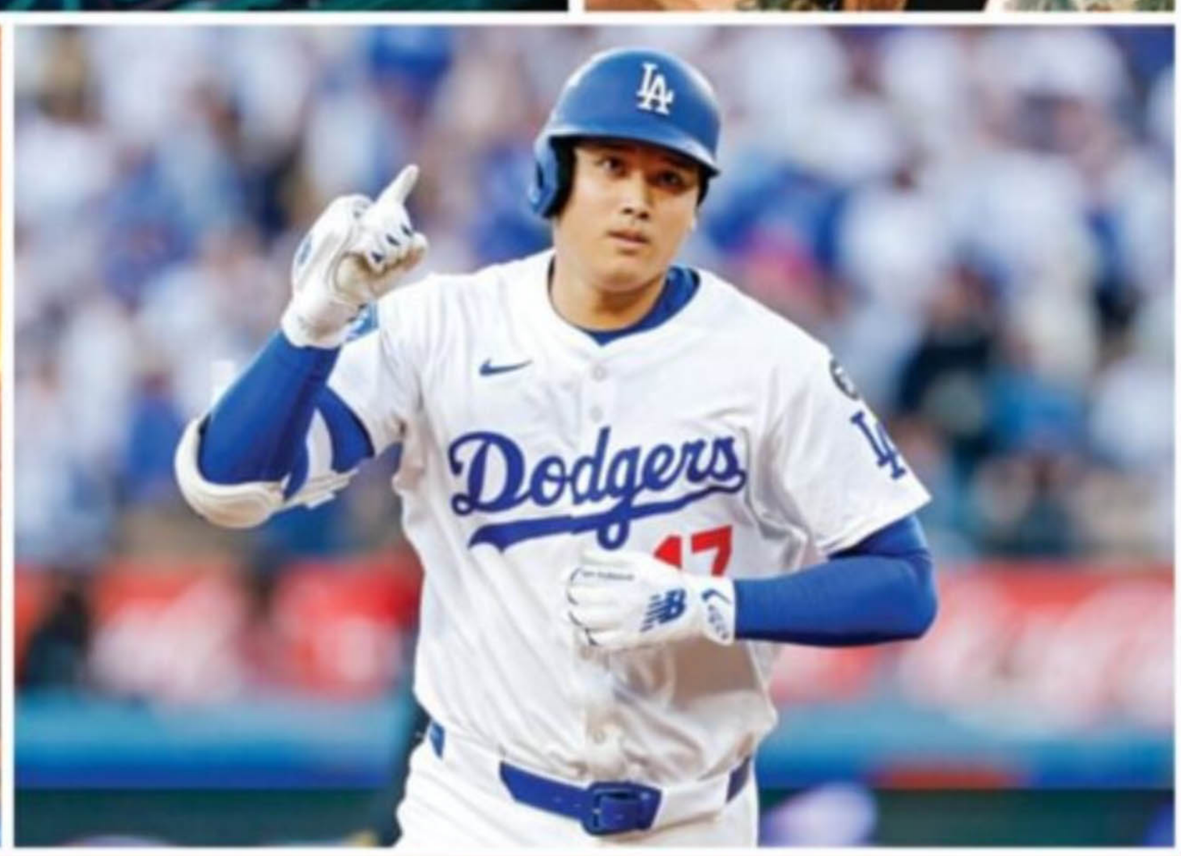
SPECIAL **TIME** EDITION

The Year in Review

Trump Returns • Israeli Hostages Released • Los Angeles Fires
An American Pope • Ovechkin Passes Gretzky • Those We Lost
PLUS: Heist at the Louvre • Goodbye to the Penny • A Dad at 135





TIME

The Year in Review 2025

100 and Going Strong

On February 26, 1925, President Calvin Coolidge signed a proclamation making Glacier Bay and its 65-mile-long fjord in southeastern Alaska a national monument. Today, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve—which encopmasses 3.3 million acres of mountains, glaciers, and rainforests—is one of 10 national parks to draw more than 3 million visitors a year. All told, the National Park Service reported a record 331.9 million recreation visits to its 400-plus parks last year.

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Parts of this edition appeared previously in TIME.

2025 Images

A City Aflame

Fire raced across Los Angeles in January, fueled by dry ground covering from two decades of megadrought and fanned by Santa Ana winds gusting up to 100 miles per hour. Nearly 200,000 people were ordered to evacuate, and residents in some neighborhoods, such as Altadena and Pacific Palisades, had just minutes to flee. As flaming embers descended, firefighters tried to hose structures, but low water pressure made it difficult to stop the inferno, one of the most destructive in the state's history. After 24 days, firefighters finally extinguished the flames. By then, the blaze had consumed at least 16,000 buildings, scorched more than 37,000 acres, and killed 31 people. In October, Jonathan Rinderknecht, 29, was indicted for starting what became the Palisades fire. He pled not guilty.

Photograph by Ethan Swope/AP

2025 Images

Don't Tread on Us

Demonstrators in cities across the country took to the streets to protest what they perceive as the unprecedented abuse of power under the administration of President Donald Trump, who for his part, dispatched National Guards to Democratic-run cities, claiming he needs to combat crime and aid in immigration enforcement by confronting protesters. By late October, troops had been sent to Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Memphis, and Portland, Oregon, and Trump was attempting to send them to Chicago. Here, protesters confronted federal agents outside a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Portland on October 12. To clear the area, officers used tear gas on the crowd.

Photograph by Mathieu Lewis-Rolland/Getty Images

2025 Images

Farewell, *Papa*

Cardinals flew in from all over, world leaders attended a requiem mass during which the Sistine Chapel Choir chanted, and 200,000 of the faithful and the curious crowded the streets around St. Peter's to bid farewell to Pope Francis, the first Latin American and Jesuit to rise to the top of the church. Francis, who died Easter Monday, took his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the 13th-century saint, and the priest known as the "People's Pope" promoted a humble version of the papacy. His moving, multilingual funeral ceremony on April 26 reflected that approach. Having taken a vow of poverty, Francis elected to be buried outside the Vatican in a simple wooden coffin at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, in an area populated by migrants, the homeless, and the poor, those he had long sought to uplift.

Photograph by Dan Kitwood/ Getty Images

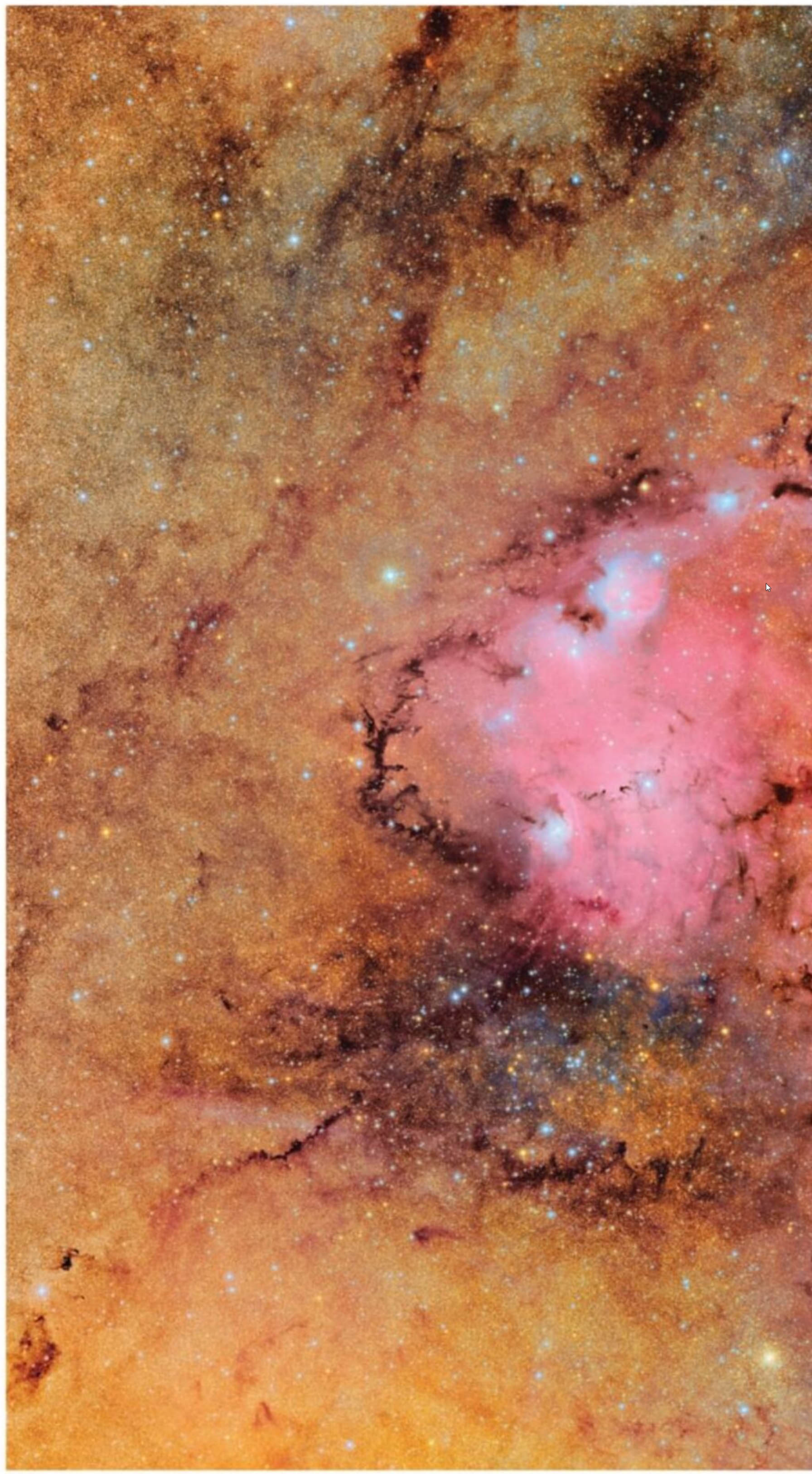
Hunger in Gaza

A ceasefire in Gaza between Hamas and Israel was reached October 10. It will hopefully end the two-year-long war, which has brought massive destruction to the Palestinian territory along the Mediterranean shore. Gaza's Health Ministry says 67,000 people had died by then, and in August, Tom Fletcher, the United Nations' Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, confirmed that famine had gripped Gaza's northern governate, something Israel denies. Scenes of desperation were common in Gaza City as groups like the UN World Food Programme, World Central Kitchen, and Oxfam rushed to bring in relief. The young girl here was straining to receive food being distributed in Gaza City on July 7.

Photograph by Abdalhkem Abu Riash/Anadolu/Getty Images

Twinkle, Twinkle

Using a 27-foot-wide digital camera, the largest ever, the new Vera C. Rubin Observatory started scanning the skies in June, capturing exquisite images of space. Named for the American astronomer who found evidence for dark matter in the universe, the facility sits on the top of a Chilean mountain, an ideal spot that offers clear skies and low light pollution. Over the next 10 years, it will take about 1,000 detailed pictures every night, covering the entire visible southern sky every three to four nights, producing ultra-high-definition time-lapse records of 20 billion galaxies and their stars. One of the first is this image of swirling gas clouds forming intricate patterns in the Trifid Nebula. It reveals the birthing of new stars in the constellation Sagittarius, and next to it is the Lagoon Nebula with its cluster of massive young stars.



Photograph by RubinObs/NOIRLab/SLAC/NSF/DOE/AURA

Ukraine

The city of Sumy sits in northeastern Ukraine, less than 20 miles from the Russian border. When Russia first attacked Ukraine in February 2022, brutal combat raged in its streets. Russia withdrew from the region two months later, and Sumy became a refuge for those fleeing border communities. While the fighting stopped, missile and drone attacks continued. On April 13, two days after American special envoy Steve Witkoff met with Russian president Vladimir Putin about a potential ceasefire, two Russian missiles hit Sumy's city center while locals were celebrating Palm Sunday. The strikes killed 34 people and wounded at least 117. Bodies littered the streets and cars burned, exhausting rescue workers, like the one at left, who sought to help.

Photograph by Roman Pilipey/AFP/Getty Images

Flipping Out

Benson Boone took to the stage at February's Grammy Awards rocking a sparkly jumpsuit that channeled Elvis. As he belted out his No. 2 Billboard Top 100 hit "Beautiful Things," he climbed to the top of the piano and did the first of two perfectly executed flips. The move was nothing new for the 23-year-old. "When he was probably 3 years old, we just could never stop from having him do backflips off the couch or flips wherever he could," Boone's father, Nate, told KING 5 News in Seattle. By freshman year in Monroe, Washington, Boone was on his high school diving team, and as a senior he did flips in a production of *Elf: The Musical*. It is a talent, along with his vocally acrobatic voice, that he clearly knows how to put to good use.

Photograph by Christopher Polk/ Getty Images

Mount Lewotobi

With more than 100 active volcanoes, Indonesia is among the world's most seismically active regions. One of its most explosive volcanoes is Mount Lewotobi. Sitting on the remote Indonesian island of Flores, it is made up of two stratovolcanoes, Laki-Laki and Perempuan. They stand less than two miles apart and tower some 5,000 feet high. When Laki-Laki erupted in November 2024, it killed at least 10 people and destroyed thousands of homes. In mid-June, Lewotobi blew up twice, causing the skies to rumble and thunder as it shot out a mushroom-shaped plume of orange smoke and ash six miles high. This was followed by an ash shower that coated villages. Lewotobi exploded again on July 7, spewing out flows of lava, ash, pumice, and volcanic gas.

Photograph by STR/AFP/ Getty Images

DONALD TRUMP'S DISRUPTION IS BACK

The president returned to the White House and set out to "make America great again."

LOST AMID THE HULLABALOO SURROUNDing Donald J. Trump's second inauguration as president of the United States—the last-minute, cold-driven venue changes, the galas and balls, the $170 million raised from donors both big-name and anonymous—is the point of the whole extravaganza. In the summer of 1787, the delegates to the federal convention in Philadelphia included in the document they were drafting a requirement that before taking office, the president should recite the following oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Not everyone thought it was a good idea. Several delegates believed oaths were pointless, almost superstitious. This is the only verbatim pledge in the U.S. Constitution, and in retrospect it speaks to the document's fragility, a sense that the men struggling in secret in Philadelphia were worried their hard-won agreement was so tenuous that it required a promise from future leaders to respect their work. Yet every president from George Washington on has recited the 35 words as a commitment to the rule of law in the face of unpredictable forces of change.

Trump is himself an unpredictable force for change. Whatever one thinks of him, during his first term he already altered America in ways unimaginable a decade ago. Back then, the so-called Washington consensus among Republicans and Democrats held that free trade was a near-absolute good. Presidents respected prosecutorial independence as a way of protecting citizens from an elected leader trying to use the power of law enforcement for personal interests. For 75 years, commanders in chief upheld the U.S. pledge of mutual defense with NATO allies. Trump has cast these norms aside, and the consequences are rippling around the world. He is arguably the most influential change agent to occupy the White House since Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Donald Trump took the oath of office on January 20.

Yet the 47th president is as much a product of global change as a driver of it. The challenges his agenda attempts to address accumulated over decades, and they are now greater than can be mastered by any one leader, or even one country. Transnational forces, from migration to organized crime to pandemics, have resisted both collaborative and unilateral responses since before 9/11. Today's world is in many ways unrecognizable from what it was when America won the Cold War. In China, the U.S. faces a potential economic and military competitor unlike any before.

Trump has pledged to confront these challenges through a suite of aggressive moves. He has promised everything from mass deportations to suppression of the free media through prosecution to the annexation of Greenland, the Panama Canal, and Canada—though he may be joking about that

last bit. Supporters say his norm-breaking will be worth it if he succeeds where others have failed, and they credit him for promising to tackle big, difficult problems: cutting government waste and reversing massive deficits, ending wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, fixing the long-broken immigration system. Trump took office in as strong a political position as ever before, buoyed by a decisive election victory and near record-high public support, a Republican Congress unified behind him, and broader backing in the business community, most notably among tech elites, who have committed to working with him this time. To many, Trump's ascension carries the possibility of positive change for institutions that have grown stagnant or worse.

His opponents, meanwhile, have been struggling to figure out which parts of his agenda to accept. Over time, Democrats have adopted some of the Trump prescriptions they once denounced. President Biden kept many of Trump's China tariffs. Vice President Kamala Harris embraced his "no tax on tips" pledge during her campaign. Forty-six House Democrats voted for the Laken Riley Act, which requires federal detention for anyone in the country illegally who is arrested for shoplifting or theft; an even greater proportion of their Senate colleagues support the bill. At the same time, Democrats have continued to battle over many of Trump's policies, as they have for the past 10 years.

On July 4, Trump signed his Big Beautiful Bill. Opposite, from top: with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky and Vice President J.D. Vance on February 28; with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on October 13; a protester in Los Angeles on June 14.

The key moments of Trump's second term will come when the forces of political resistance, his own advisers, the legal system, or his fellow world leaders oppose the president's moves. Trump has threatened to and has already deployed the military against American protesters. Will he abide by judicial rulings if an aide tells him the courts can't force him to? It is unclear what use Trump intends to make of the partial immunity from criminal prosecution the Supreme Court granted presidents last year.

Trump told TIME in the fall of 2024, "I'll only do what the law allows, but I will go up to the maximum level of what the law allows." His most anxious critics point out that he is not exactly a man of his word. He changes positions and discards allies at the drop of a hat; he replaced his White House counsel before even taking office. The 47th president is the first to enter office as a felon, convicted in 2024 by a jury of his peers of 34 counts of falsifying business records. Reciting a simple oath doesn't seem like much assurance that he will abide by the Constitution.

But the hard-won agreement for governing the U.S. has shown itself a survivor. It has endured the Civil War, the rise of fascism, multiple pandemics, and extralegal affronts. It emerged from the disruptions and disgraces of Trump's first presidency, too, including the events culminating in the Capitol riot on Janurary 6, 2021. As he took office for the second time, the pledge at the center of his inauguration spectacle now seems less an expression of insecurity by the framers than one of wisdom. And those anxious about what may be coming can be glad that on August 27, 1787, the convention delegates decided to broaden their original version of the president's oath from a simple promise to "faithfully execute the duties" of the office to a further commitment to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

It is on Trump, and America, to ensure that oath is kept. —*Massimo Calabresi*

FAREWELL TO A STATESMAN

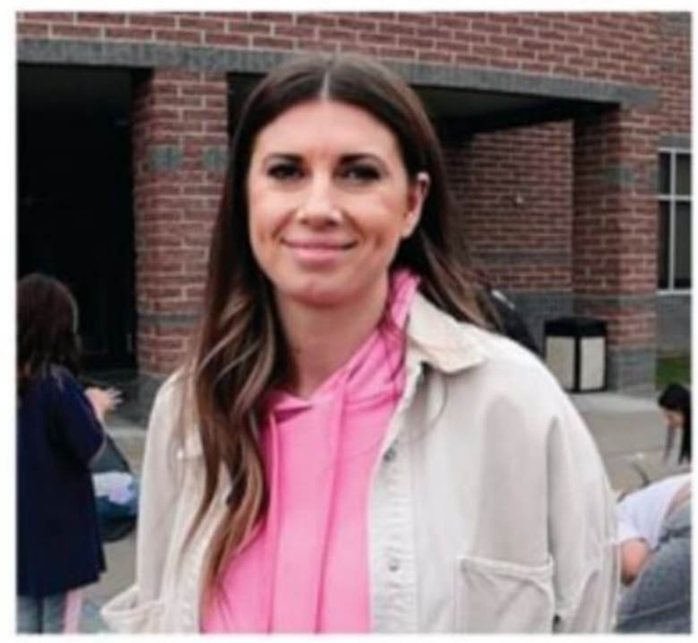
Jimmy Carter's Funeral

By the time of his death on December 29, 2024, at age 100, Jimmy Carter was the longest-lived president, a leader whose decency was praised across party lines. President Joe Biden called Carter, who brought the 1978 Camp David Accords and peace between Israel and Egypt, a "statesman," with George W. Bush saying he "dignified the office." The former Georgia farm boy's funeral garnered more pomp than he probably would have wanted. On January 4, a motorcade with his casket drove past his childhood home in Archery, Georgia, where the farm bell was rung 39 times for the 39th president. In Washington, D.C., black mourning drapes hung from Carter's official White House portrait, and his casket lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda. On January 9, a service was held at the National Cathedral, with all five living presidents in attendance. It was then back to Plains for a funeral at the Maranatha Baptist Church, where Carter often ran Sunday school classes, and then burial in the town he called home.

NATIONWIDE PROTESTS

No Kings Days

On June 14, competing gatherings took place in the United States. Tens of thousands arrived in Washington to view a military parade in celebration of the U.S. Army's 250th birthday; it also happened to be President Donald Trump's 79th birthday. They watched as troops in historical American military uniforms marched, 150 Army vehicles rolled down Constitution Avenue, and paratroopers jumped out of airplanes. At the same time, 5 million Americans turned out across the country for No Kings Day to protest the administration's aggressive efforts to arrest undocumented immigrants, the deployment of the National Guard in American cities, the firing of federal workers, the gutting of federal departments and agencies, and the cutting of university funding. Some 2,000 rallies were held across the country, from small ones in towns like Glen Ridge, New Jersey, with 250 picket-carrying protesters to an estimated 200,000 in Los Angeles, where a group of people carried a massive banner that represented the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. A follow-up march on October 18 drew nearly 7 million peaceful protesters. House speaker Mike Johnson dismissed the event as a "hate America rally."



WELCOMING ALL STUDENTS

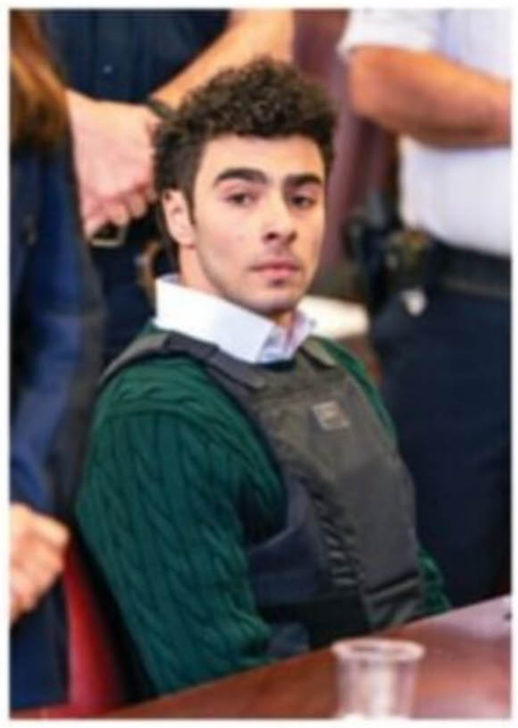
Sarah Inama

For four years, Sarah Inama had two signs hanging in her 6th grade classroom at the Lewis and Clark Middle School in Meridian, Idaho. They told students they were important by simply proclaiming "Everyone Is Welcome Here," with an illustration of 10 raised hands in skin tones ranging from dark brown to pale pink. But in February, the school district said she had to take the signs down because they violated Idaho's Dignity and Nondiscrimination in Public Education Act, as well as school policy, which requires classroom signs to be "content neutral." Inama initially complied, but as she told the *Idaho Statesman*, "I just couldn't stop thinking about it. I came back in...and I put it back up." She resigned in May, noting that the district has "allowed a welcoming and inclusive message for my students to be considered controversial, political, and, worst of all, an opinion." She soon after accepted a new job teaching in Boise, saying to *EdNews*, "I'm so grateful to be able to work within a district that knows the beauty of inclusion and diversity."

THE GROWTH OF A CULT

Luigi Mangione

The murder was brazen. As UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson headed into the Hilton Midtown hotel in Manhattan on December 4, 2024, a masked man shot him and fled. The alleged murderer, Luigi Mangione, was arrested five days later in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He was found with a manifesto that seethed with disdain for the state of health care, saying that "these parasites simply had it coming." While the murder horrified many, it also unleashed a torrent of venom toward for-profit health care companies. Filmmaker Michael Moore, whose 2007 film *Sicko* chronicled the failings of health care companies, wrote that while "I condemn murder.... The anger is 1000 percent justified.... I want to pour gasoline on that anger." The killing has also spawned a cult of Mangione, with pro-Mangione rallies held outside the courthouse. His alleged actions may have inspired others. After Shane Tamura murdered four people in July at the National Football League's headquarters in New York City, prosecutors said Mangione supporters saw the shootings as "a laudable continuation of the defendant's philosophy."



PREPARING FOR A HIGH COURT VACANCY

The White House is sifting through résumés and legal briefs in case a new justice needs to be nominated.

THE DISCUSSIONS ARE IN THE EARLY STAGES and focus on finding a nominee in the mold of Samuel Alito, 75, or Clarence Thomas, 77, the two oldest justices, both of whom are considered stalwart conservative jurists who have taken narrow interpretations of the Constitution while backing an expansive view of presidential power. Short lists of judges are circulating among Trump allies as they debate who could be best trusted to stick with the Supreme Court's conservative wing during an appointment that could last decades.

"We are looking for people in the mold of Alito, Clarence Thomas, and the late Scalia," said a White House official familiar with the process, referring to Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016. The official said it was "premature" to say the White House was getting ready for a vacancy.

Republicans currently control the Senate, which must confirm any nominee to the court. The party also controlled the Senate throughout Trump's first term, allowing Trump to appoint three justices—Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett—who were all well regarded in conservative legal circles.

Advisers close to Trump want to set the stage for the smoothest possible confirmation process and avoid the high drama of Kavanaugh's hearings in 2018 that focused on allegations of sexual assault. Conservative lawyers around Trump are also feeling burned by a handful of recent decisions in which Barrett joined liberal members of the court and want to ensure the next nominee is someone who won't veer from the conservative bloc.

"There's a lot of anger at Amy Coney Barrett coming from the MAGA movement," says Benjamin Wittes, editor in chief of Lawfare, an online publication that closely follows the Supreme Court, and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "I think you can imagine a very different type of nominee than we've had from Trump in the past."

Trump will make the final decision on whom to put forward for Senate confirmation, says a White House official. Key players who would be involved in vetting candidates would be attorney general Pam Bondi, chief of staff Susie Wiles, White House counsel David Warrington, and Steve Kenny, deputy White House counsel for nominations.

Mike Davis, a conservative lawyer and bare-knuckle Trump defender, is also expected to be an influential voice in the process. "Justice Thomas and Justice Alito are irreplaceable, and I hope they do not retire anytime soon," Davis tells TIME. Just in case, Davis says he has given the Trump White House a short list of "bold and fearless" nominees for the Supreme Court, and should there be a vacancy, he plans to "play an outside supporting role" in the White House efforts.

Davis, the founder of the Article III Project, a conservative judicial advocacy group, would not confirm whose names are on his list. "I have provided my recommended list to the president and his team, and I am not going to discuss that list with anyone other than them," he says. He stresses that "the president and the president alone will decide his judicial nominees."

Two people familiar with the White House vetting process said the current front-runners for a potential Supreme Court vacancy are Andrew Oldham, a 5th Circuit Court judge in Texas, and Neomi Rao, who sits on the influential District of Columbia Circuit Court. Oldham was previously general counsel for Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and clerked for Justice Alito. Rao, whose parents are from India, would be the first Asian American on the Supreme Court, and the seventh woman. Rao clerked for Justice Thomas earlier in her career.

From top: Andrew Oldham in Washington in November 2022; Neomi Rao at her 2019 confirmation hearing for the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals; the current Court in 2022.

Davis has also previously floated the name of Aileen Cannon, the judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida who ruled for Trump when he was being investigated for keeping classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago club.

Other conservative judges considered who are potential contenders for Trump to name are James Ho, another judge on Texas's 5th circuit, and two judges on Ohio's 6th circuit—Raymond M. Kethledge and Amul R. Thapar.

The Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington-based think tank that's best known for spearheading Project 2025, is also expected to work to influence Trump's decision. John Malcolm, vice president of Heritage's Institute for Constitutional Government, can list off the top of his head more than 10 current circuit-court judges he thinks would be strong choices for the nation's highest court.

Malcolm also believes Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, a former assistant U.S. attorney who clerked for Alito, would be an "excellent choice." While Lee isn't a sitting judge, he "isn't afraid to speak his mind," says Malcolm, who adds that Lee has a track record of legislation and books that show him to be a textualist and originalist.

Trump entered his second term having already helped cement a conservative majority for a generation through the installation of three nominees. In recent months, that court has upheld Trump's consolidation of power as president and bolstered his larger project to tilt the country's public policy to the right. In June, the court limited the ability of judges to block Trump's policies nationwide and paved the way for the administration to move forward with deporting immigrants to locations other than their home countries without additional due process requirements imposed by a district court judge.

During Trump's first term, he relied heavily on recommendations from the Federalist Society, a powerful conservative legal group, for his judicial nominations. That process produced a group of academically minded conservative thinkers on the court that overturned the nationwide abortion protections of Roe v. Wade. Trump will likely be looking for a different standard this time around, says Lawfare editor Wittes.

"I assume the competition here would be to have shown greatest loyalty to Trump," Wittes says. "I think one would worry that this person would be guided by loyalty rather than guided by something like principle." —*Brian Bennett*

SILENCING OPPONENTS

A Rise in Political Violence

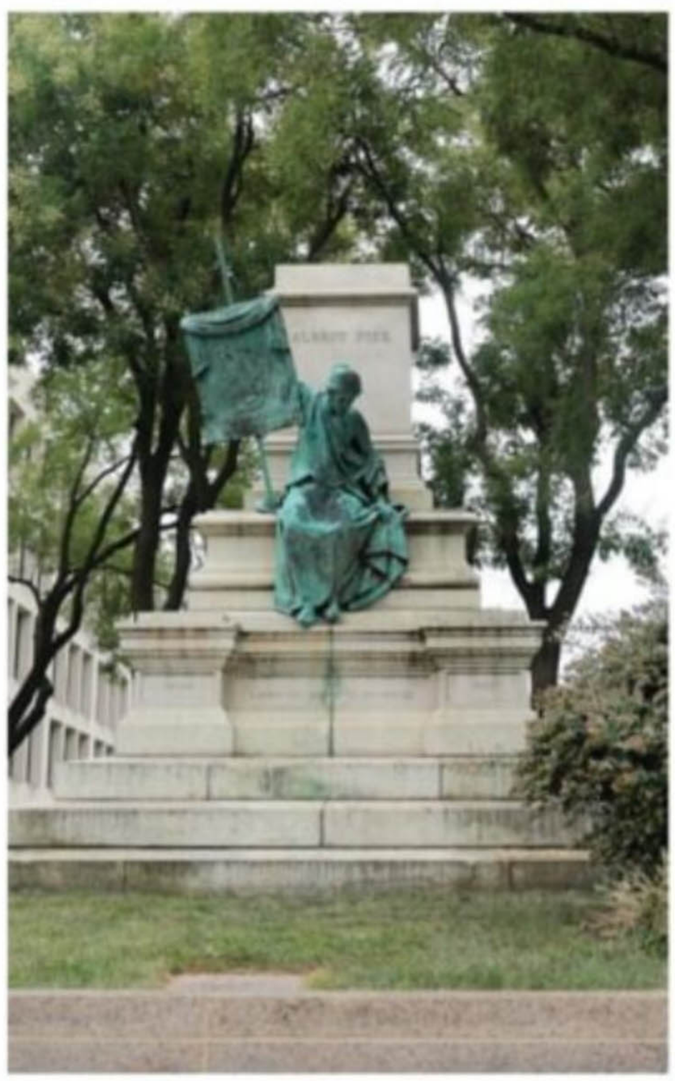
We live in an era of increased political violence and rhetoric. On September 10, conservative activist and Turning Point founder Charlie Kirk (above) was killed as he spoke to a large gathering at Utah Valley University. In 2024, the U.S. Capitol Police looked into 9,474 statements and direct threats against members of Congress and their families, up from 3,939 in 2017. In 2022, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, Paul, was attacked, and in 2024, Donald Trump faced two attempts on his life. In June, a gunman murdered Democratic Minnesota house speaker emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark (right), at their home.

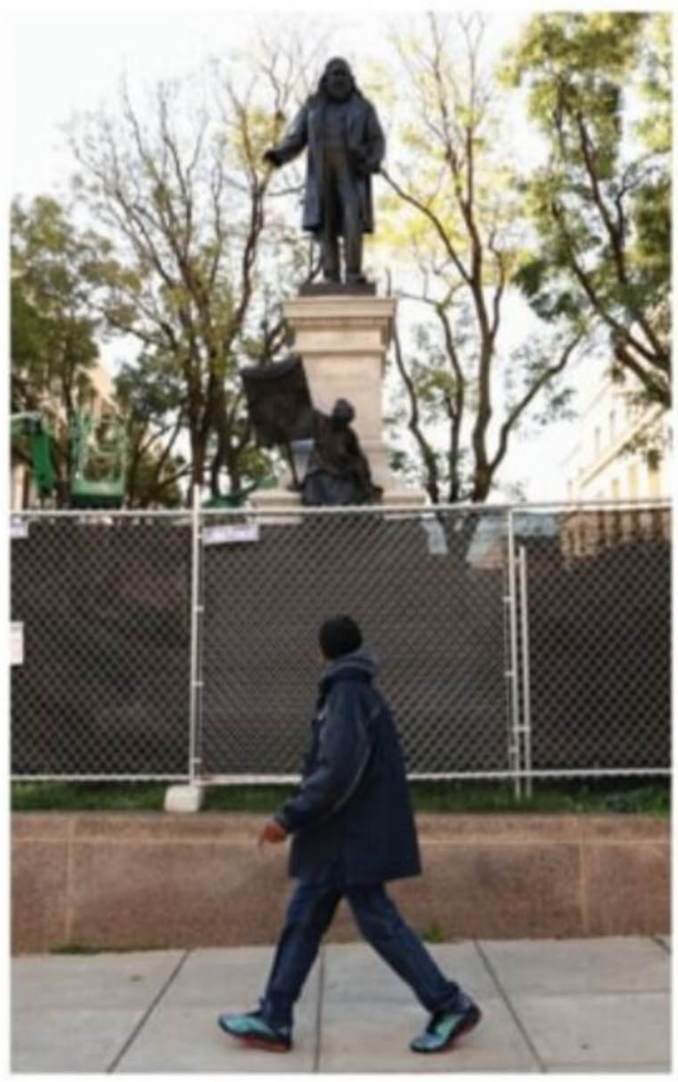
Many on both left and right are trying to calm the political temperature, with Minnesota governor Tim Walz saying after the Hortmans' murder, "We must all… stand against all forms of political violence." Others are more partisan. Following Kirk's death, the president, a friend of Kirk's, pinned the uptick on liberals, stating, "The radical left has done tremendous damage to the country." (In fact, data shows more political violence comes from the right.) Trump vowed to stop the activities of those he calls "domestic terrorists."

CLAMPING DOWN ON DISTRACTIONS

School Phone Bans

A growing number of parent-led groups are working to turn American schools into phone-free environments. Thanks in part to their efforts, support for phone-free schools is rising, spawned by a public-awareness campaign advocating for less screen time and more real-world independence for kids. The change reflects an understanding that phones and social media can cause serious harm to kids' mental health and social development. A Pew Research Center survey found that 74 percent of U.S. adults support preventing middle schoolers and high schoolers from using their phones in class. As of this September, more than 30 states and Washington, D.C., have banned or partially banned cell phones at school. Parents are now also lobbying Congress to pass the Kids Online Safety Act, which would legally require social media companies to prevent and mitigate harms on their platforms.





PUBLIC ART

Return of Confederate Statues

Following the 2020 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, scores of Confederate statues were removed from public spaces. Some are now coming back. In August, defense secretary Pete Hegseth said that a statue commemorating the Confederacy would be returned to Arlington National Cemetery. Meanwhile, the National Park Service restored and returned a statue of Confederate general Albert Pike that had been pulled down in 2020 to a spot near the U.S. Capitol. District of Columbia Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, who called Pike a traitor, said the plan was "odd and indefensible."

REMEMBERING A SENSELESS KILLING

Pulse Memorial Crosswalk

After a gunman who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State murdered 49 people and wounded 68 others at the LGBTQIA+ Pulse nightclub in Orlando in 2016, the crosswalk outside the club was painted in rainbow colors to honor those who died in what was then the largest mass shooting in U.S. history. But in July, U.S. transportation secretary Sean Duffy asked the states to keep non-freeway roads "free from distractions," and in August, the Florida Department of Transportation painted over the colors on South Orange Avenue and removed road murals commemorating Black history and other artworks, including a "Back the Blue" mural, that the department called "non-uniform traffic control devices, such as pavement markings on state and local roads." Orlando mayor Buddy Dyer called the act a "callous action" and a "cruel political act," with Brandon Wolf, who survived the shooting, posting about "the cowards" who did it. Right after the crosswalk was blotted out, protesters applied colored chalk. When rain washed it away, they reapplied it. Numerous chalkers have since been arrested for defacing the street, with police now patrolling the area to prevent more applications. Several Florida cities have challenged the removals.

THE JAILING OF A REPRESENTATIVE

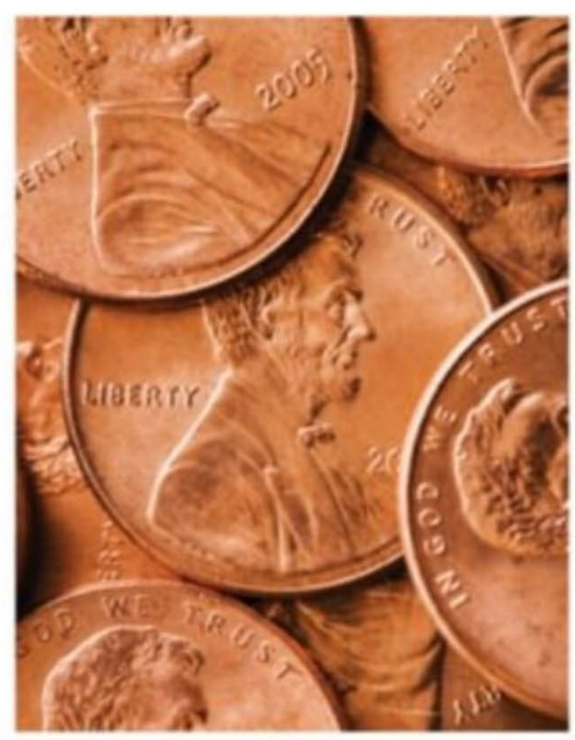
George Santos

Once heralded as a rising star of the Republican party, George Santos instead proved to be a serial fabricator. He falsely presented himself as a successful businessman with a stellar college and work background, and he made up a story about his mother having been in Manhattan on 9/11. After being expelled from Congress in 2023, he pled guilty in federal court to wire fraud and aggravated identity theft so he could fund his 2022 congressional campaign. His abandoned congressional seat was won by Democrat Tom Suozzi. Prior to his April sentencing, Santos stated that he was "profoundly sorry" for what he had done. Before starting his seven-year sentence at the Federal Correctional Institution in Fairton, New Jersey, he hosted a farewell party for himself, brazenly posting on X: "Well, darlings… The curtain falls, the spotlight dims, and the rhinestones are packed. From the halls of Congress to the chaos of cable news, what a ride it's been! Was it messy? Always. Glamorous? Occasionally. Honest?" In October, President Trump commuted his sentence, admitting that Santos was "somewhat of a 'rogue'" but calling the sentence excessive.

LESS LOOSE CHANGE

The End of the Penny

More than 3.2 billion pennies were minted in 2024, and Donald Trump wrote on Truth Social, "For far too long, the United States has minted pennies which literally cost us more than 2 cents. This is so wasteful!" Pennies actually cost 3.69 cents each to mint, and in February, as part of his cost-cutting program, the president instructed the secretary of the treasury to stop making pennies when the supply of blanks from which the coins are made runs out. The one-cent coin would not be the first low-denomination coin to be discontinued in the U.S. Congress ordered a stop to the minting of the half-cent coin in 1857. Nor is America the first nation to ditch the coin. Other countries, including Australia in 1992 and South Africa in 2002, have already done so amid concerns about the rising cost of production, as well as lack of everyday use. Not everyone is on board. Some economists worry that the poor would be hit hardest by a "rounding tax" on cash transactions. Other penny supporters say more nickels would need to be produced, and they cost more than 13 cents each to make. At least for now, a nickel saved is still a nickel earned.



ACADEMIC FREEDOMS ENDANGERED

The Battle at Universities

Conservatives have long contended that American colleges, especially elite ones, are bastions of liberal indoctrination, bulwarks of affirmative action that discriminates against white students, and hotbeds of antisemitism. Since taking office, Donald Trump has waged war with the country's universities. As those in the administration's crosshairs accuse it of trying to restrict academic freedom, the White House has financially sought to bring them to heel, demanding changes in how they are run, cutting off federal funding for research, blocking the enrollment of international students—a major source of revenue—and condemning assorted initiatives at such schools as Northwestern University and the University of California, Los Angeles. Columbia quickly agreed to pay a $200 million fine to resolve several federal investigations, and Brown paid $50 million to Rhode Island workforce development organizations that comply with anti-discrimination laws. The administration's biggest battle is with Harvard (above), with $9 billion in research funding at stake for the school. In September, a federal judge blocked the administration from withholding more than $2 billion of that funding. The White House said it would appeal.

Gavin Newsom

Jasmine Crockett

Cory Booker

SEEKING CHANGE

Democratic Party Reboot

Last year's election essentially swept the Democrats from national power, with Democratic National Committee chair Ken Martin bemoaning, "Our party's not dead—we're still alive and kicking. Maybe barely." They stumbled into that position by losing touch with workers, men, voters of color, and young voters. A general complacency had settled on the party, one that wrongly believed most Americans hated Donald Trump enough to accept an unsatisfying alternative.

Candidates tried to convince people that the economy was good when it didn't feel good, that inflation and illegal immigration were just imaginary problems. Yet these were real issues that voters cared about, and it resulted in major losses at the polls.

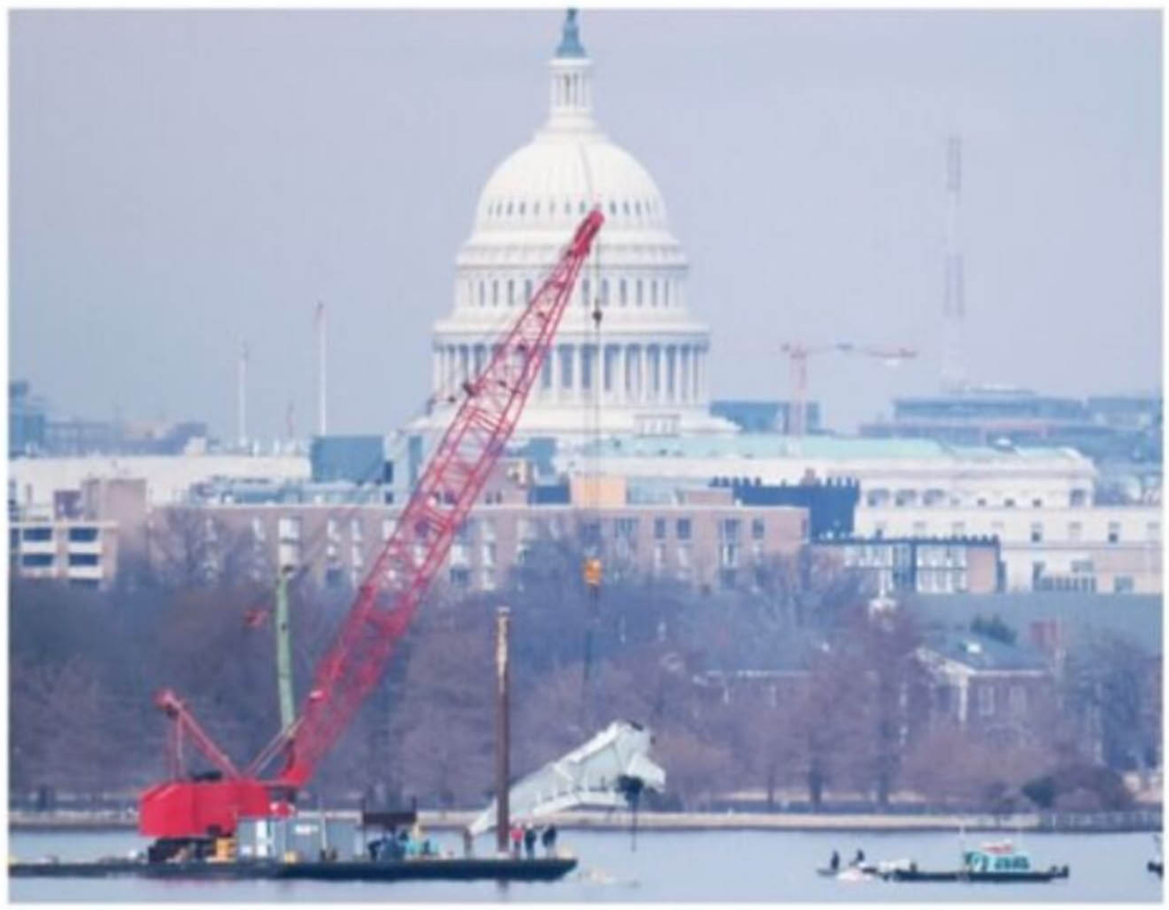
California governor Gavin Newsom said the party needs to brand away from just policy, messaging, or leadership questions, recenter economic issues in its outreach, and develop what some are calling "patriotic populism." Rep. Chris Deluzio of Pennsylvania noted, "You've got to be principally seen worrying about jobs and people's pay and health care—economic issues." Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez of Washington said the party erred by targeting its messaging to the most marginalized rather than the vast, struggling middle class. As the Democrats refocus, New Jersey senator Cory Booker sought to rally the Democrats in Congress, and Rep. Jasmine Crockett was part of the unsuccessful fight to stop Texas Republicans from redistricting parts of her state.

Mallory McMorrow, a Michigan state senator running for the U.S. Senate, said the Democratic message should be simple, universal, and optimistic: "Democrats fight for the American Dream." Noted Rep. Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey, "The fight is generational." A sign that their messaging was starting to have an effect was the Democrats' sweeping success in the November election.

SCHOOL TRAGEDY

Annunciation Catholic School Shooting

It was the morning of August 27 at a mass during the first week of classes at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. Fifth grader Weston Halsne, 10, was sitting near the stained-glass windows through which bullets started flying. "I just ran under the pew," he told CNN. Weston covered his head, but a bullet fragment struck his neck, just missing his carotid artery. "My friend Victor saved me though, 'cause he laid on top of me, but he got hit," Weston said. Two children, Fletcher Merkel, 8, and Harper Moyski, 10, were killed, and 21 people were wounded. The shooter was found with a rifle, shotgun, and pistol, dead from a self-inflicted wound. A clearly upset Mayor Jacob Frey ran to the church, and in a news conference he said, "Don't say this is about thoughts and prayers right now. These kids were literally praying. These are kids that should be learning with their friends. They should be playing on the playground. They should be able to go to school or church in peace, without the fear or risk of violence."



DANGER IN THE SKIES

A Deadly Year for Flying

While it was out on a training flight on January 29, an Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flew about 100 feet higher than it should have and hit an American Airlines regional jet heading toward Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Virginia, across from Washington, D.C. Both aircrafts plunged into the Potomac River, killing 64 on the plane and the three Army crew. Among those killed were 14 members of the Skating Club of Boston's figure skating community. With more than 185 deaths, 2025 became the deadliest year for air travel in the United States in two decades. Hearings in July before the National Transportation Safety Board faulted congested airspace, subpar equipment, and overworked and fatigued air traffic controllers.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A FRIEND

Jeffrey Epstein

Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein met around 1990, soon after Epstein bought a Florida home not far from Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. The two were regularly seen together and socializing with Epstein's associate Ghislaine Maxwell (at right, with Epstein). The two men had a falling out in 2004, and after Epstein's 2019 arrest on sex trafficking charges, Trump said that he was "not a fan of his." The following month, Epstein died by suicide, and Maxwell was found guilty in 2021 of, among other charges, sex trafficking and conspiracy to entice minors to travel to engage in illegal sex acts for abuse by her and Epstein. To further distance himself from Epstein, during his 2024 campaign, Trump pledged that if elected he would release federal files on Epstein's case. It later became known that his name was in them in an unknown context, and the release proved disappointing to many following the case. Conservatives such as Patriot Voice founder John Sabal were outraged, writing that the administration is "CURB STOMPING MAGA/EPSTEIN VICTIMS." Trump dismissed criticism of his handling of the situation as a Democratic-concocted hoax. The furor over his link to Epstein increased with the release by House Democrats of a screenshot of an alleged letter with a suggestive drawing of a woman's torso, reportedly by Trump. He has denied it.

DEATH ON THE GUADALUPE RIVER

Texas Floods

The area of Texas Hill Country along the Guadalupe River is noted for its summer camps. It is also known as one of the nation's most dangerous flood zones, earning it the nickname "Flash Flood Alley." When torrential rains fell in early July, triggered in part by the remnants of Tropical Storm Barry, river waters rose quickly, trapping people, and in the early-morning hours of July 4 rose from two feet to crest at more than 37 feet. The predawn flood swept away buildings and knocked over trees, killing more than 130, with two still missing. Twenty-seven girls and counselors died at Camp Mystic, where quite a few cabins stood in designated flood zones, some set in spots deemed "extremely hazardous." Central Texas officials were long aware of the danger, yet Kerr County lacked warning sirens, water gauges, and other disaster response systems; eight years ago, officials had deemed installing a flood warning system too expensive.

AMERICA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

Washington Slept Here

Next year is the 250th anniversary of the July 4 signing of the Declaration of Independence, the day the 13 British colonies transformed into the United States of America. In preparation for the big blowout, renovations and restorations are taking place at historic spots across the land. Independence Hall—where John Hancock and other delegates affixed their, well, John Hancocks to a document they knew was treasonous—is being spiffed up, with the masonry and wood restored, the plaster repaired, and the walls receiving a historically accurate paint finish. Back in 1777, in Princeton, New Jersey, George Washington's troops beat those of British General William Howe. An apple orchard where the Americans and British fought has been replanted. Meanwhile, George Washington's Mount Vernon home (above) is undergoing a major upgrade, its first in more than 150 years. The foundation had been ravaged by termites, and a new one has been set. During a basement excavation, archaeologists uncovered dozens of bottles containing perfectly preserved cherries and berries, likely gooseberries or currants, that were placed there about 250 years ago. The president was known to like fruits and spices. At times he even carried with him a supply of a brandy-based drink called "Cherry Bounce," making the recent finding a physical confirmation of his preferences.

HOPE FOR PEACE AFTER TWO YEARS OF WAR

Hamas released the remaining Israeli hostages, Palestinians returned to their shattered communities, and Israel pulled back its forces in Gaza.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 738 DAYS, OMRI Miran was able to hold and play with his daughters, Roni and Alma. He had last seen the girls when they were two and six months old, on October 7, 2023. That day, Hamas militants invaded their community of Kibbutz Nahal Oz, took Miran and seven others hostage, and killed 15. All told, some 250 hostages were taken and 1,200 people killed on the day that started the war in Gaza. When Miran was released, on October 13, 2025, the 48-year-old was one of the last 20 living captives held by the militant organization, his return part of a ceasefire negotiated by the Trump administration. When helicopters taking the hostages to hospitals for medical evaluation flew over Tel Aviv's Hostages Square, the crowds below cheered, wept, and waved Israeli flags. As part of the peace deal, Hamas was also required to release 28 deceased hostages. But Hamas did not immediately meet that requirement, saying it was difficult to find all the bodies.

As Miran reunited with his family, the International Committee of the Red Cross brought almost 2,000 Palestinian detainees and prisoners from Israel home to the West Bank and Gaza, where they were met by tearful family members. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Palestinians trekked northward through Gaza to what remained of their homes. The hope was that despite violations of the ceasefire, the lull in fighting would hold and the war that, according to Gaza's health ministry, has taken the lives of 67,000 and reduced large swaths of the Palestinian territory to rubble would finally be at an end.

By the time the ceasefire was signed, the war had been going on for just over two years. Despite the assault by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Hamas had refused to capitulate. The phase of the battle that brought about the hostages' return started on March 18, when Israeli jets ended a ceasefire by bombing Gaza. The Israeli defense minister said the attacks were launched because Hamas refused to accept a

Israeli troops deployed at the Gaza border on September 9 (above left); people evacuated Gaza City on September 2. Opposite: Omri Miran hugged his wife, Lishay, after his release by Hamas on October 13.

proposal to release more hostages. Among those killed were Hamas officials. In response, Hamas shot rockets at Israel.

The resumption of fighting brought out thousands of Israeli protesters, including Miran's wife, Lishay, who had become an advocate for the hostages. Many held posters bearing the faces of those held and called for the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to make peace. While Hamas has cracked down on dissenting Gazans, hundreds staged rare protests. "Hamas needs to go away," Gaza resident Ahmad al-Masri told the *New York Times*. "If it doesn't, the bloodshed, the wars, and the destruction won't stop."

The war expanded first to Lebanon, where Israeli sabotage and airstrikes crippled Hezbollah and decapitated its leadership, then to Iran, which supported both that militia and Hamas. On June 13, citing intelligence that Iran was approaching a nuclear weapon, Israel bombed uranium-enriching centrifuges and a heavy water nuclear reactor south of Tehran, military targets, and the residences of senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps officers and nuclear scientists.

Iran responded with missiles and drone strikes during the 12-day war. American B-2 stealth bombers armed with bunker bombs attacked Iran's nuclear enrichment facility outside of the city of Qom, as well other sites. While the attacks, ordered by Donald Trump, damaged but did not destroy Iran's nuclear program, the president warned, "There will be either peace or there will be tragedy for Iran." On June 24, a ceasefire between Israel and Iran took effect. Then, in September, Israel's military launched a major ground offensive into Gaza.

The two-year war has devastated Gazan society, and the lack of food brought on widespread starvation. In August, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) concluded that famine was taking place in Gaza City. Shortly before the ceasefire, the International Rescue Committee calculated that only 1 percent of households in Gaza were considered food secure—a state in which people have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs. Israel rejected the findings and accused Hamas of stealing aid. As the September offensive began, the United Nations Human Rights Council accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza, an accusation Israel called "distorted and false."

By then, the images coming out of the region had swayed many, with more than a dozen nations recognizing a Palestinian state. On September 12, the United Nations General Assembly called for "tangible, timebound, and irreversible steps" toward a two-state solution. As fighting intensified, Trump on October 3 presented a new peace deal and threatened that "all hell…will break out against Hamas" if they didn't accept it. Within a week, Hamas did, setting the stage for the return home of Miran and the others—and perhaps the start of a more lasting and permanent peace in the region.

THE VATICAN

Pope Leo XIV

Many residents of Illinois knew him as Father Bob, a fevered Chicago White Sox fan. But following Pope Francis's death in April, the Vatican conclave elected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost the spiritual leader of 1.4 billion people, and he took the name Pope Leo XIV. An Augustinian priest who served as a bishop in Peru, Leo was brought by Francis to Rome in 2023 as the prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and the president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. Later that year, Francis made him a cardinal. This devotee of Peeps candy is the second pope from the Americas—Francis was the first—and the first American to occupy the Throne of St. Peter. He took the name Leo to honor 19th-century pope Leo XIII, who championed social justice. And either by divine intervention, wise choices, luck, or all three, the pontiff's

path makes him uniquely prepared to oversee the ancient denomination. Leo has stated his desire to support several programs championed by Francis, such as peace, the environment, and the rights of migrants. Soon after becoming head of the Catholic church, he offered presidents Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky a place to negotiate, and after the U.S. bombed Iran, he urged world leaders to "stop the tragedy of war before it becomes an irreparable abyss."

EUROPE

The NATO Alliance

Donald Trump has long had a fraught relationship with NATO. When he first ran for the White House in 2016, he called NATO "obsolete" and complained that it "is costing us a fortune." His main gripe was that member countries were not spending the 2 percent of their gross domestic product that they had agreed to spend on defense, and he floated the idea of the U.S. withdrawing from the mutual protection pact. When Trump ran for reelection in 2024, he even threatened not to honor Article Five, a core NATO principle that calls for mutual defense, saying, "I would not protect you; in fact, I would encourage [Moscow] to do whatever the hell they want."

Since retaking office, Trump's attitude has shifted, partly because the allies have agreed to a 5 percent spending target. In June, when NATO members met to discuss growing threats from Russia, Trump said, "I stand with [Article Five]." Yet, still determined to force Europe to bear more responsibility, the U.S. Department of Defense approved the sending of American weaponry to Ukraine only if NATO nations paid for it. In September, after Russia launched drones and planes into Polish, Romanian, and Estonian airspace, NATO announced the Eastern Sentry operation to reinforce the defense of the pact's eastern flank. U.S. General Alexus Grynkewich, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, said the operation will include integrated air and ground-based defenses, with the use of F-16 and Rafale jets: "Across the eastern flank, we'll constantly adjust and change our posture in a manner that keeps the adversary off guard but also responds to specific threats as we see them emerging."

DENMARK

Feeding the Animals

In July, the Danish Aalborg Zoo asked for some help feeding its predators. Officials requested that people donate their small family pets—chickens, rabbits, and guinea pigs—to help enrich the diet of the zoo's larger species, specifically the European lynx. They hoped to give their hungry wards a variety of food that resembled what they would hunt in the wild. As Pia Nielsen, deputy director of the zoo, told the *Guardian*, the zoo has "fed our carnivores with smaller livestock" for several years and prefers to feed them animals with fur and bones, to "give them as natural a diet as possible." So, the zoo requested, "If you have an animal that needs to leave here for various reasons, you are welcome to donate it to us." All donated pets would be killed "gently," and officials ensured that "nothing goes to waste." The zoo also accepts small horses, noting on its website, "We provide fast euthanization by trained staff."

EUROPE

The Rise of the Right

In June, Marine Le Pen greeted European far-right leaders and 5,000 supporters to a rally near Montargis, France, to celebrate her National Rally party's recent successes to promote calls to Make Europe Great Again. She was joined there by such fellow right-wing politicians as the Hungarian prime minister, Viktor Orbán.

The right is on the rise in Europe. Economic anxiety, the continuing effects of the record arrival 10 years ago of more than 1.3 million asylum-seeking migrants, and disillusionment with mainstream parties has proven to be a boon for populism. After Giorgia Meloni became Italy's prime minister in 2022, she imposed a hard-line, anti-immigrant stance. In Germany, the Alternative für Deutschland party won 2024's state election in Thuringia and in February 2025 finished second in a national election. In September 2024, the Freedom Party of Austria won the national elections with 28.8 percent of the vote. In September 2025, 110,000 people took to the streets of London in a Unite the Kingdom protest, some battling police. Then a protest in the Hague to demand tougher migration policies turned violent, though in November, the Dutch center-left party narrowly beat the far-right party in a parliamentary election.

In 2027, the far right will have its best shot at capitalizing on mounting voter anger in elections in France, Italy, Spain, and Poland.

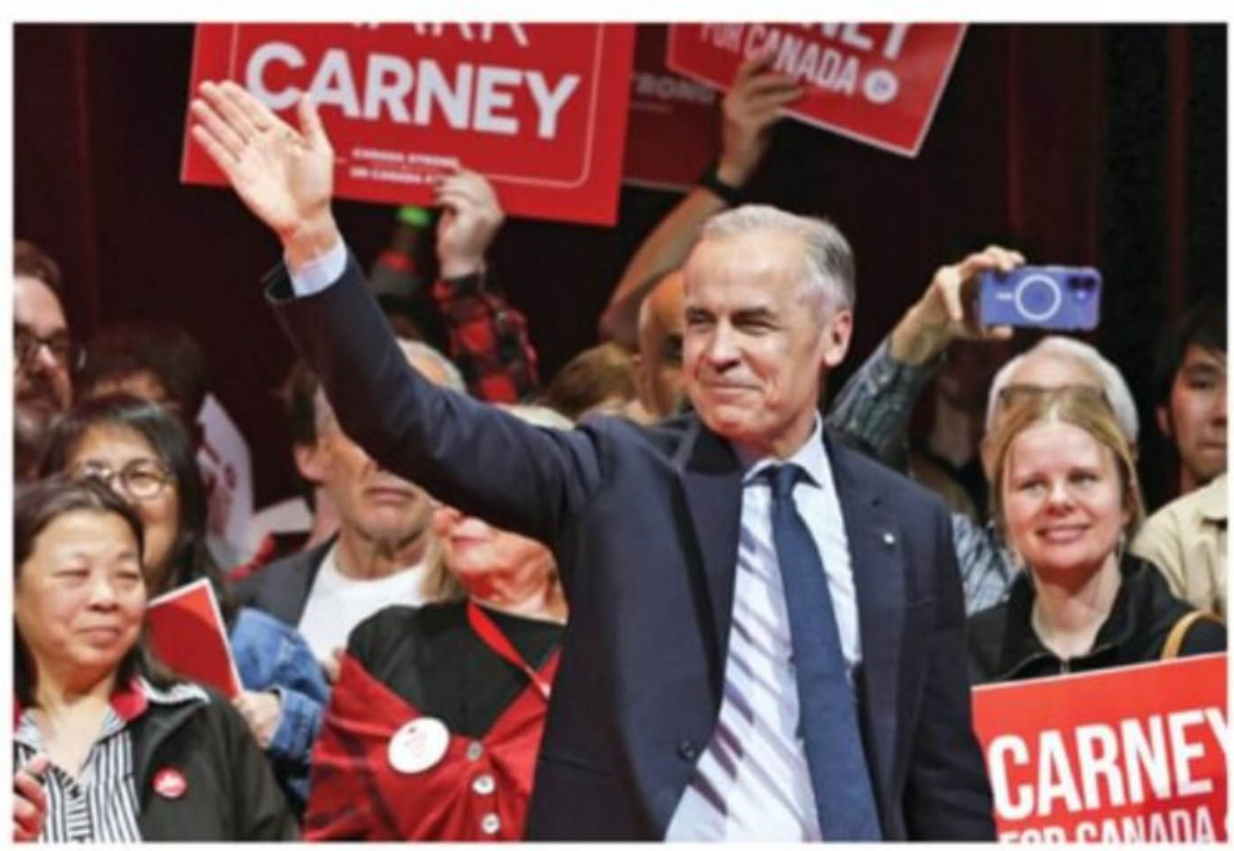
CANADA

A New Liberal Voice

In a pivotal Canadian election on April 28, Mark Carney's Liberal Party won a fresh mandate. The former central banker beat Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, who had been leading in the polls for more than two years against the deeply unpopular Liberal prime minister Justin Trudeau and dissatisfaction with the state of the economy. When Trudeau stepped down, Carney replaced him and called a snap election to cement his power.

Carney pulled off his election coup by positioning himself as the best candidate to contend with Donald Trump on tariffs, the president's desire for Canadian natural resources, and, most shockingly for many Canadians, his insistence that Canada join the United States. Trump even posted an election-day message promising all good things "if Canada becomes the cherished 51st State of the United States of America."

The meddling didn't go the way Trump had hoped. Carney won the federal election, and Poilievre lost his seat in parliament before winning a new seat in August. A week after Carney's win, in an Oval Office meeting with Trump, the prime minister reminded the U.S. president that Canada is "not for sale."



BRAZIL

A Jailed President

Jair Bolsonaro, the former president of Brazil, claimed that a rigged 2022 election cost him the office. A week after his opponent Inacio Lula da Silva's January 2023 swearing-in, Bolsonaro's supporters stormed the capital of Brasilia and raided the Presidential Palace, the offices of Congress, and the Supreme Court. That June, Brazil's Supreme Court barred him from running for office until 2030. In 2024, Bolsonaro was indicted on the claim that while in office he faked his COVID-19 vaccination data, and in February 2025, he was charged with orchestrating a plot to stay in power; 33 others were also charged. His house arrest in August led to protests both in support of and in opposition to him. In September, the court ruled 4 to 1 to convict the former president of plotting a coup d'état and seeking to abolish his nation's democracy, and sentenced the 70-year-old to more than 27 years in prison. Bolsonaro, who has denied any wrongdoing, can appeal.

World Briefs

Funicular Accident

A cable snapped loose from Lisbon's popular Glória Funicular, causing the railway car to crash into a building and killing at least 16.

Dreyfus Promoted

The lower house of the French parliament voted to posthumously promote Alfred Dreyfus, wrongly convicted and imprisoned for treason in 1894, to general.

Shades of Jonah

Adrián Simancas was packrafting in Chile when a humpback whale sucked him and his inflatable craft into its mouth—and then spat him back out.

Saint Carlo Acutis

Called "God's Influencer," Carlo Acutis, who died at age 15, was recognized by the Catholic church as the first millennial saint for spreading church teachings online.

UKRAINE'S MISSING CHILDREN

During the nearly four-year-long war in Ukraine, Russians have taken more than 20,000 children, the largest abduction of youths since World War II.

MARGARITA PROKOPENKO WAS ONLY A few months old in February 2022 when Russian president Vladimir Putin ordered the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russian troops captured her hometown of Kherson in March, and soon after, Russian parliamentarian Igor Kastyukevich arrived in the city on the Dnieper River to cement the Kremlin's control. While there, he made frequent visits to Margarita's orphanage, bringing food and other supplies. Inna Varlamova, the wife of Putin ally Sergei Mironov, also visited the girl. In the fall, claiming that they needed to ensure the safety of the children in the orphanage, Russian officials began taking them away. Margarita was among the first. According to the BBC, upon her arrival in Russia, she was issued a new birth certificate, which listed her name as Marina Mironova.

Kherson was liberated by Ukrainian troops in November 2022, and Ukraine's military has successfully launched strikes deep into Russian territory. Yet the war has devastated parts of Ukraine, and Russia currently controls sections of the east and south. Nearly four years into the conflict, the two sides are far from reaching a settlement to end the war that has taken the lives of more than 14,000 Ukrainian civilians, between 60,000 and 100,000 Ukrainian troops, and about 250,000 Russian soldiers.

Some of the least acknowledged casualties of the war are Ukrainian children like Margarita. Since 2022, more than 20,000 have been abducted from care homes, taken by force from their families, or spirited from cities following the death of their parents. One of Ukraine's demands for peace calls for the return of all the children, with President Volodymyr Zelensky saying in 2022, "We know by name 11,000 children who were forcibly deported to Russia. Among them are many whose parents were killed by Russian strikes, and now they are being held in the state that murdered them." The Russians maintain that the children were rescued. Mironov has not denied taking Margarita into his home. Yet in a post on social media, the Russian parliamentarian called claims about kidnapped children "another fake hysteria" created by Ukraine's intelligence agencies. Vladimir Medinsky, Russia's lead peace-talks negotiator, has similarly mocked reports: "These so-called kidnapped children, they were saved by our soldiers, evacuated under fire."

The abduction of Ukrainian children is nothing new. It also occurred during Russia's 2014 invasion of the Crimean peninsula. The Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale University has been tracking the children through Russian news reports, public databases, and social media posts. In March, the group identified more than 8,400 children who had been "systematically relocated" from Ukraine. Military transport planes were sometimes used to take the children, who were then assigned to Russian foster families. As Nathaniel Raymond, executive director of the Yale group, told the *Guardian*, "This is likely the largest child abduction in war since World War II—comparable to the Germanification of Polish children by the Nazis." The fear is that the children will vanish into Russia's adoption system, homes, and reeducation camps.

The taking of the children is seen as a war crime, and in 2023, the International Criminal Court in the

Russia has defended taking Ukrainian children by saying its soldiers are heroically saving them from a war zone. Ukraine dismisses that claim and has stipulated that the safe return of the children is a condition for peace.

Hague issued an arrest warrant against Putin for the "unlawful transfer" of the children. The Russians have ignored the charge; a Putin associate in Moscow told TIME, "He could spit on the Hague." In March, President Donald Trump said that his administration would work "to help make sure those children were returned home." Efforts have been made to keep news of the kidnappings in the public eye. When Zelensky aide Daria Zarivna headed to the United Nations in New York in December 2024 to tell Margarita's story, her speech went viral. In June, New York's Metropolitan Opera released an excerpt from *The Mothers of Kherson* about two mothers who travel 3,000 miles to save their daughters, a production that will debut in Poland in 2026.

So far, 1,700 children have reportedly been returned to Ukraine. Yet as the war and peace efforts grind on, the fear is that the longer they remain in Russia, the more difficult it will be to reintegrate those subjected to Russian propaganda. An 11-year-old Ukrainian boy named Serhii spent a few months in Russian foster care. When the family brought him home, he refused to speak to his relatives. "They convinced him that Ukraine had been destroyed, that he would starve if he went back," said his sister Kseniia Koldin. And the *Times* of London has reported that there's evidence Russia has forcibly conscripted some of the children to fight against their homeland when they turn 18.

During peace talks in Istanbul, Putin's envoys promised to address the issue, with Medinsky saying, "We will work on every one of the names in this list." But he dismissed Ukrainian concerns, saying, "If you want to get people crying, show them a lost child, ideally one holding a kitten. So that's what they're showing us." In Zelensky's view, the only way to win the kids back would be through an international campaign to force Putin's hand. "The question comes down to the will of certain leaders, who can simply put pressure on Putin to return the children," Zelensky says. "Trump is one of them. There's no other way." —*Simon Shuster*

CUTTING A LIFELINE

Dismantling USAID

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy told Congress that "there is no escaping" what he described as America's "moral obligations" to help poorer nations. He then established the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which for more than six decades made the U.S. the world's largest provider of foreign aid. USAID helped stop outbreaks of disease around the globe and revolutionized agricultural practices, with the medical research journal *The Lancet* estimating that it prevented the deaths of more than 90 million people between 2001 and 2021.

Donald Trump said USAID was rife with fraud and run by "radical left lunatics." Its dismantling began just days after he returned to the White House, and the agency closed its doors for good on July 1. Researchers from Brazil, Mozambique, and Spain forecasted that the defunding could lead to some 14 million deaths by 2030. The shuttering will be devastating to millions around the world. Some 20.6 million people with HIV were supported by USAID, and a study in *Retrovirology* said that ending funding could cause a potential resurgence of up to 630,000 HIV-AIDS-related deaths annually.

USAID has similarly invested $9 billion to help tackle malaria, and it has been reported that the cuts will lead to nearly 10 million additional cases of malaria globally in just one year. And the World Health Organization predicted that 5 million in war-ravaged Sudan may lose access to lifesaving health services. Former president Barack Obama noted, "Gutting USAID is a travesty, and it's a tragedy."

ETHIOPIA

Spreading Electricity

Towering 509 feet high and stretching 1.1 miles long, Ethiopia's Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is a true behemoth. Completed in September after 14 years of construction at a cost of $4 billion, Africa's largest hydropower plant holds back the newly created 19.5-trillion-gallon reservoir along the Blue Nile. It will generate more than 5,000 megawatts of power, twice what the east African nation currently offers, and will bring electricity to millions of citizens, many of whom still use charcoal for heat and kerosene lamps for light. As Amakelech Debalke Gebre-Giorgis, a mother of two in Addis Ababa, told the Associated Press when discussing the completion of the system and what it means to her and others, "We want to see more development, and we want to see more electricity become part of our daily life, and we're all excited."

SUDAN

War and Death

Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has been at war with the Sudanese government since 2023, and for 500 days it held a siege on El Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur. On October 26, 2025, the militia group swarmed into the city of 260,000, with reports of soldiers going house to house casually killing citizens. In the Saudi Maternity Hospital, 460 people were reportedly slaughtered. The Sudan Doctors Network, which has been tracking the war, reported that troops "cold-bloodedly killed everyone they found inside the Saudi Hospital, including patients, their companions, and anyone else present in the wards."

Sheldon Yett, UNICEF representative to Sudan, has called the situation there "hell on earth with lots of guns." Nathaniel Raymond at Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab, which has been monitoring the city, said, "We are only at the beginning of a wave of violence." As El Fasher fell, tens of thousands fled west to Tawila, already home to more than 650,000 refugees.

Such rampant atrocities are nothing new for the RSF under the command of Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Formed in 2013, the RSF is the current name for the Janjaweed militia, which in the early 2000s carried out ethnic cleansing and genocide against non-Arabs, killing hundreds of thousands. In August, the group announced the swearing in of a new government, and the fear is that now that they have captured El Fasher, it will cause Sudan, from which the Republic of Southern Sudan split in 2011, to splinter even more.

TIBET

The Dalai Lama Will Live On

Tenzin Gyatso has said numerous times that he may be the "last" Dalai Lama, but four days before his 90th birthday on July 6, the 14th Dalai Lama and Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader stated, "The institution of the Dalai Lama will continue." The announcement puts him at continued odds with Beijing, which seized control of Tibet in 1959, forcing the Dalai Lama to flee to India. Beijing views him as a threat because of the symbolic influence he has for Tibetan Buddhists and his advocacy for autonomy and religious freedom for his homeland.

The office of the Dalai Lama can identify the next reincarnation, which involves interpreting spiritual signs, turning to the Dharma Protectors (Buddhist deities), and consulting the heads of Tibetan Buddhist traditions. After the death of the current Dalai Lama, there will be a search for a child reincarnation in Tibet—historically a boy, although the Dalai Lama has said that he could return as a girl. After a child is chosen and confirmed, he or she will spend many years studying to assume the sacred role.

While the officially atheist Chinese Communist Party insists that it has final say on who will next lead the six-century-old institution, the Dalai Lama and Tibet's government-in-exile have rejected that assertion. The Dalai Lama's office has said that it possesses the "sole authority" to name the successor, with the Dalai Lama himself saying, "No one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter."

SOUTH KOREA

President Yoon Removed from Office

In early December 2024, South Korean president Yoon Suk-yeol issued a declaration of martial law, calling the opposition-controlled National Assembly a "monster" that was infiltrated by anti-state elements allied with North Korea. Yoon's efforts sparked turmoil as 190 out of a total of 300 lawmakers battled their way into parliament in Seoul through cordons of special forces to repeal the declaration. As they did, tens of thousands of Koreans gathered in the streets outside and demanded Yoon's resignation. He was impeached two weeks later, and the nation's Constitutional Court upheld the verdict in April, with acting chief justice Moon Hyung-bae declaring that Yoon (below) "violated his duty as the nation's commander-in-chief." In June, Lee Jae Myung was elected South Korea's new president. He then approved legislation to investigate Yoon's grab for power. Yoon, who was indicted in January for rebellion, was arrested in July on additional charges, including abuse of power, obstructing official duties, and falsifying official documents. If convicted, he could face life in prison or the death penalty.

NEPAL

A Government Falls

For many Nepalese, the blocking on September 4 of 26 social media platforms, including X and Instagram, was the final indignity. Decades of frustration and deep resentment over corruption, bad governance, and limited economic opportunities in a nation where 21 percent of those ages 15 to 24 are unemployed—coupled with anger over politicians' "nepo kids" flaunting their wealth on TikTok—caused people to swarm the streets of Kathmandu. Thousands hoisted placards and banners, defied a curfew, set the Supreme Court and Parliament ablaze, and ransacked and torched the home of Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli. As the skies filled with black smoke from burning tires, protesters clashed with police, who used water cannons, rubber bullets, and batons, killing at least 72 and injuring hundreds. The government lifted the social media ban on September 8, and Oli resigned the following day. Someone scrawled "We won" in large orange letters on the walls of the smoldering parliament building. Former chief justice Sushila Karki was appointed the first female prime minister, and President Ramchandra Paudel then dissolved parliament. New elections are set for March.

JAPAN

Hiroshima 80 Years Later

It has been 80 years since the B-29 bomber *Enola Gay* dropped the 9,700-pound bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima. It incinerated most of that Japanese city. "Fat Man" was dropped on Nagasaki three days later. An estimated 150,000 to 246,000 people died immediately or in the months that followed the attacks, forcing the Japanese government to surrender and ending World War II. On August 6, the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, one of the largest memorial gatherings ever took place in the city, with a silent prayer ceremony and about 10,000 peace lanterns floated on six rivers. Hiroshima mayor Kazumi Matsui referred to the spreading of weapons of mass destruction a "flagrant disregard [of] the lessons the international community should have learned from the tragedies of history."

GOLDEN AGE OR EXISTENTIAL RISK: HOW WILL AI TRANSFORM SOCIETY?

Leaders in the field of artificial intelligence disagree on the impact the technology will have.

IN 2025, HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS were spent to scale AI systems in pursuit of superhuman capabilities. CEOs of leading AI companies, such as OpenAI's Sam Altman and xAI's Elon Musk, expect that within four years, their systems will be smart enough to do most cognitive work—think any job that can be done with just a laptop—as effectively as or better than humans.

Such an advance, leaders agree, would transform society. Demis Hassabis, who leads Google DeepMind, Google's AI research lab, argues that AI's social impact will be more like that of fire or electricity than the introduction of mobile phones or the internet. If such a prediction is even partly correct, the world could soon radically change. But there is no consensus on how this transformation will or should be handled.

With exceedingly advanced AI models released on a monthly basis and the Trump administration seemingly uninterested in regulation, the decisions of private-sector leaders matter more than ever. But they differ on which risks are most salient, and what's at stake if things go wrong.

Existential Risk or Unmissable Opportunity?

"I always thought AI was going to be way smarter than humans and an existential risk, and that's turning out to be true," Musk said in February, noting that he thinks there is a 20 percent chance of human "annihilation" by AI. Estimates vary, but the idea that advanced AI systems could destroy humanity traces back to the origin of many of the labs developing the technology today. Altman, who in 2015 called superhuman machine intelligence "probably the greatest threat to the continued existence of humanity," signed a statement with Hassabis and Dario Amodei, CEO of AI safety and research company Anthropic, declaring that "mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks, such as pandemics and nuclear war."

"It strikes me as odd that some leaders think that AI can be so brilliant that it will solve the world's problems, using solutions we didn't think of, but not so brilliant that it can't escape whatever control constraints we think of," says Margaret Mitchell, chief ethics scientist at Hugging Face. For Mitchell, risk increases as humans cede control to increasingly autonomous agents. Because we can't fully control or predict their behavior, we run "a massive risk of AI agents that act without consent to, for example, drain bank accounts, impersonate us saying and doing horrific things, or bomb specific populations."

"Most people think of this as just another technology and not as a new species, which is the way you should think about it," says MIT professor Max Tegmark, cofounder and president of the Future of Life Institute. He explains that the default outcome when building machines at this level is losing control over them, which could lead to unpredictable and potentially catastrophic outcomes.

Despite these apprehensions, other leaders focus instead on the positive upside. "I think when history looks back, it will see this as the beginning of a golden age of innovation," Google CEO Sundar Pichai said. "The biggest risk could be missing out."

Similarly, asked in 2023 whether he thinks we're on a path to creating superintelligence, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said he was "much more focused on the benefits to all of us. I am looking for the thing that may be even bigger than the industrial revolution and really doing what the industrial revolution did for the West, for everyone in the world."

A Race Between Countries and Companies

Even among those who believe AI poses a risk, there is a widespread belief that any slowdown in U.S. AI development will allow foreign adversaries to pull ahead in the race to create transformative AI. Future AI systems could be capable of creating novel weapons of mass destruction, effectively flipping the global balance of power overnight.

For Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, ensuring advanced AI systems are not controlled by a single entity is key to safety. "The best way to make sure it doesn't get out of control is to make it so that it's pretty equally distributed," he said on Joe Rogan's podcast, pointing to the importance of open-source models.

Parameters for Control

While most companies developing advanced AI models have policies and procedures around safety—and most have made commitments to the U.S. government regarding issues of trust, safety, and allowing third parties to evaluate their models—none of this is backed by the force of law. Tegmark is optimistic that if the national security establishment accepts the seriousness of the threat, standards will follow.

Some CEOs are feeling the weight of their power. Google leader Hassabis has previously advocated for the creation of new institutions, akin to the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) or the International Atomic Energy Agency, to bring together governments to monitor AI developments.

This is easier said than done. Nadella, discussing AGI and superintelligence on a podcast, emphasized his view that "legal infrastructure" will be the biggest "rate limiter" to the power of future systems, potentially preventing their deployment. "Before it is a real problem, the real problem will be in the courts," he said.

An 'Oppenheimer Moment'

Mitchell says that AI's corporate leaders bring "different levels of their own concerns and thoughts" to these discussions. But Tegmark fears some leaders are "falling prey to wishful thinking" by believing they can control superintelligence, and that many are now facing their own "Oppenheimer moment." He points to a poignant scene in the film of that name where the scientists watch their creation being taken away by military authorities. "That's the moment where the builders of the technology realize they're losing control over their creation," he says. "Some of the CEOs are beginning to feel that right now." —*Tharin Pillay*

PUBLIC HEALTH

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Since being sworn in as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who oversees such key government agencies as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has brought about a massive reorganization of his department. This has included downsizing its head count and slashing billions in grants that fund medical research. Kennedy is a skeptic of vaccine safety who has long falsely claimed that vaccines such as the MMR shot for measles, mumps, and rubella cause autism. In April, he called the increase in autism cases a preventable "epidemic," infuriating scientists and doctors who say that autism is a neurological disorder and that the rise in reported cases could be due to a combination of factors, including better testing. The spread of disinformation has fueled hesitation over vaccinations and led to a decline in inoculations. A drop in those receiving the MMR vaccine has also contributed to a surge in cases of measles, a disease that had been declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. As of mid-October, an outbreak had hit 42 states, infected more than 1,500, and killed three. CDC director Susan Monarez was ousted in August after she refused, her lawyers said, to "rubber-stamp unscientific, reckless" vaccine directives.

RESEARCH

Cuts to the Sciences

The Trump administration's drive to streamline the government has led to major cuts in federal science funding. Because of this, the American Association for the Advancement of Science reported in July that funding will decline by more than a third, with basic science research dropping from $45 billion to $30 billion. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation have so far lost at least $4 billion in funding.

Some of the areas the administration has targeted are those deemed "woke," such as studies of health disparities in minority groups, transgender health, and those associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion. Others include research that seeks to address climate change and environmental hazards.

The decision to reduce U.S. funding and end programs came as the White House cut ties with several international bodies, including the World Health Organization in 2026, and withdrew from global agreements such as the Paris Climate Accord.

Experts called the cutbacks poorly advised, because besides expanding knowledge and creating breakthroughs, scientific research is a powerful driver of the economy and a major creator of economic growth. According to the NIH, each $1 increase in publicly funded basic research stimulates an additional $8.38 of industry research and developmental investment over eight years. One serious concern is that the lack of funding will impact America's position as a leader in scientific endeavors. Already, other nations, such as Australia and China, are recruiting American researchers.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Oh Boy, It's Hot Outside

The year 2024 was the hottest on record, with a May 2025 study by the World Meteorological Organization finding that global temperatures will continue at or near record levels and will rise by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030. Once that point is reached, the planet will see more regular and intense weather and strains on food production and water access. The increase is being fueled by greenhouse gases, with the amount of methane and nitrous oxide at a level not seen in 800,000 years. In October, the University of Exeter's *Global Tipping Points* report found the planet has passed a major threshold, with rising ocean temperatures, acidification, overfishing, and pollution combining to cause coral bleaching and mortality. The collapse of reef ecosystems will be devastating for both marine and human life, since reefs support fisheries and protect coastlines from storm surges and rising sea levels.

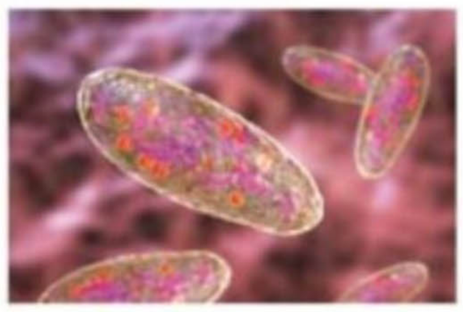
A TIME 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL INNOVATOR

Richard Thompson

Marine biologist Richard Thompson was out looking at barnacles in tide pools one morning in 1993 when he started noticing small pieces of plastic deposited by the tide—lots of them. Years later, he coined the word *microplastics,* which helped everyone else see this new scourge too. The tiny particles have been found everywhere from clouds to the human bloodstream, but the consequences for human and environmental health are only just beginning to be understood.

At first Thompson helped organize beach cleanups; others have tried to vacuum the stuff from the seas. But in recent years, Thompson, director of the Marine Institute at the U.K.'s University of Plymouth, has been clear about what the only solution really is. As he wrote recently, "regulators, governments, and citizens all urgently need to turn off the tide of plastic pollution at its source by reducing the production of plastics." From his pioneering research to pushing for policy change, Thompson has been pivotal to efforts to protect the ocean, and us all. —*Bill McKibben, author and environmentalist*

Science Briefs



Plague of Justinian

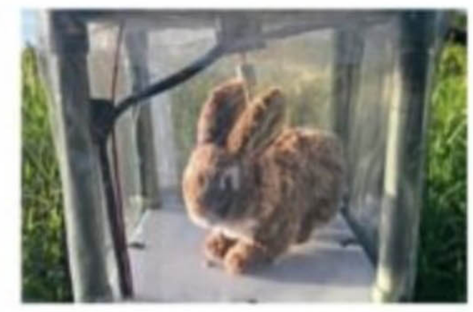
Studying graves in Jordan, scientists have confirmed that the Plague of Justinian (541–750 CE) was caused by the same bacterium that caused bubonic plague.

Matcha

The world's increasing thirst for matcha, a Japanese green tea powder, has resulted in a global supply problem, with companies reporting shortages.

Saturn

Scientists thought that Saturn had 146 moons, but they recently discovered that there are 128 more orbiting the ringed planet, bringing the total to 274.



Robot Rabbits

To capture the invasive Burmese pythons that have devastated wildlife in the Everglades, officials are using lifelike toy rabbits to lure the massive snakes.

THE PACIFIC OCEAN

Protecting Polynesia's Waters

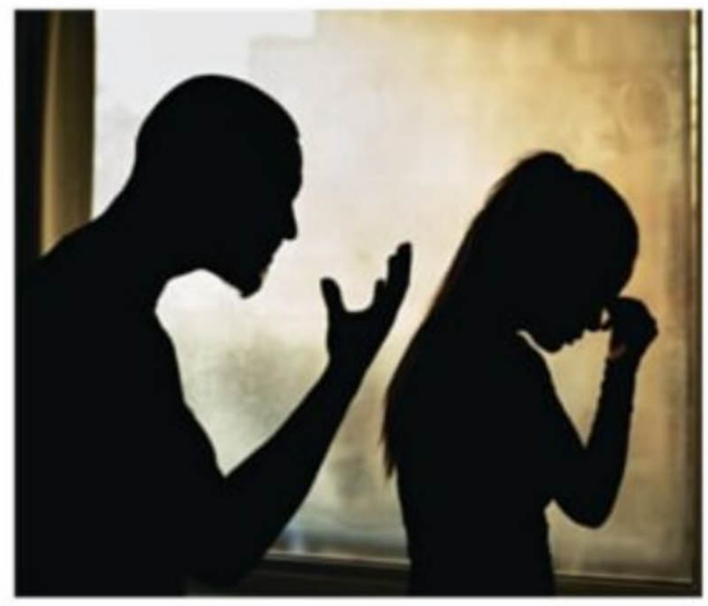
In June, French Polynesia created the world's largest marine protected area. The area covers the entirety of the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), nearly 5 million square kilometers (1.9 million square miles), and will restrict extractive practices such as deep-sea mining and bottom-trawling, a destructive type of fishing that drags large nets along the seafloor. Of that area, 1.1 million square kilometers (424,712 square miles) will be designated as a highly or fully protected area, known as class 1 and 2, where only traditional coastal fishing, ecotourism, and scientific exploration will be allowed. The government has also pledged to add an additional 500,000 square kilometers (193,051 square miles) to the highly protected area by June 2026. "We have been managing this EEZ wisely for centuries, using the techniques that were passed on from the generations before us and our ancestors," Moetai Brotherson, French Polynesia's president, told TIME. "But now we wanted to take a bold step to be in line with the international standards of the IUCN [International Union for Conservation of Nature]."

downmagaz.net

KIDNEYS, HEARTS, LIVERS, AND LUNGS

Interspecies Transplants

More than 48,000 organ transplants were performed in the U.S. in 2024, and 100,000 people are on the national transplant waiting list. With those in need far outstripping the supply, surgeons have long dreamed of xenotransplantation—using animal organs as substitutes for human ones. While research is still in the early stages, there has been some success using genetically modified pig organs. Genetic innovations over the past few decades made such a feat possible. In March 2024 came the first reported case of a living person receiving a kidney that came from special group of pigs bred to produce human-like kidneys. The pigs' cells were treated with the gene-editing technology CRISPR, which allows scientists to make very precise genetic changes in cells. These CRISPRed cells were then used to create pig clones so the pigs would have identical and consistent genetic changes. Other organ transplants that have been attempted include hearts, lungs, and livers.



PUBLIC HEALTH

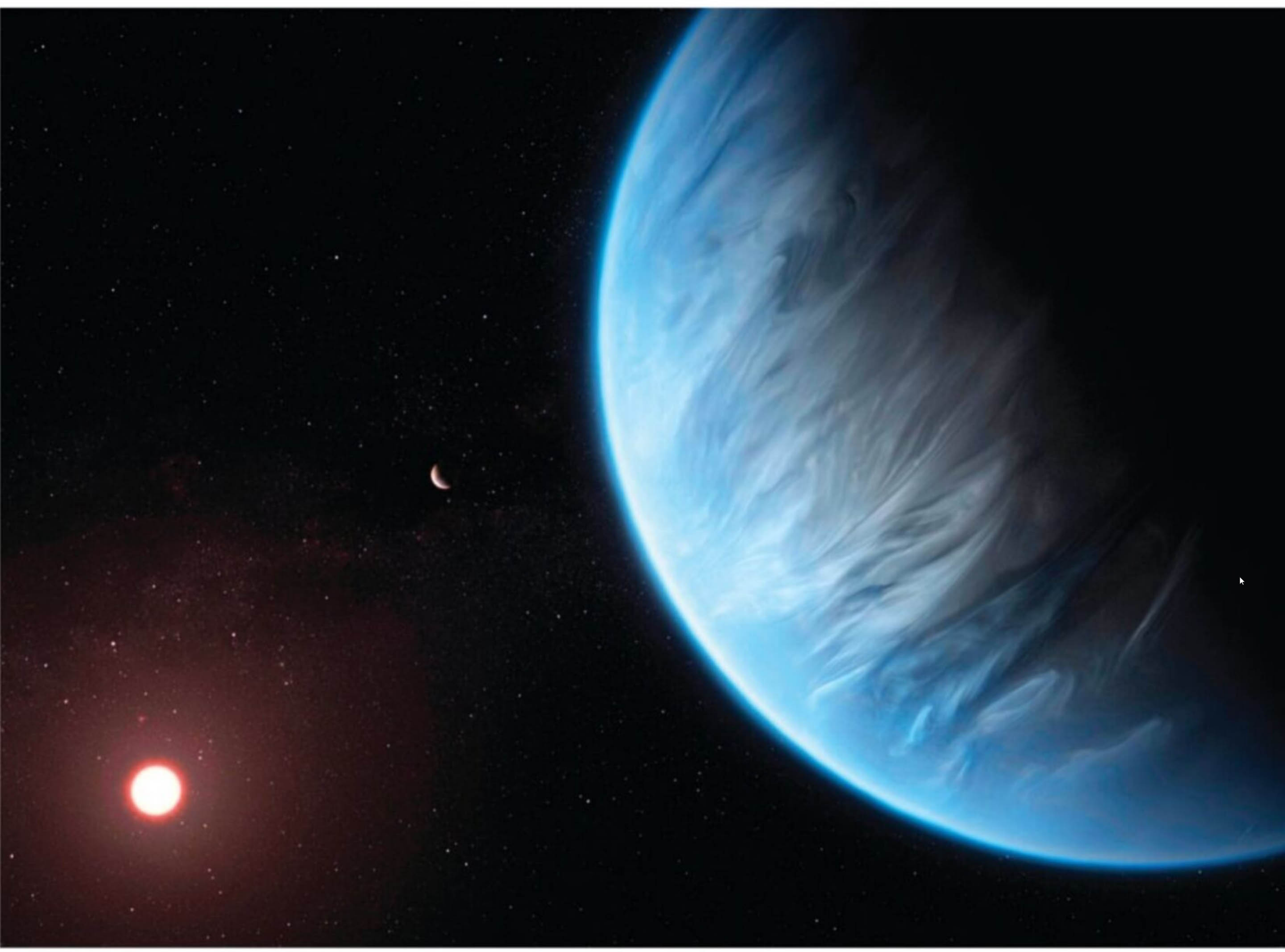
Domestic Violence

The National Bureau of Economic Research estimated in June that since the Supreme Court gutted protections for abortion, there have been an additional 9,000 incidents of intimate partner violence—an estimated increase of 7 to 10 percent—in states that have near-total abortion bans, due to such issues as financial strains on couples. Violence similarly increased with the pandemic and economic slowdowns. Hotlines have seen a rise in calls from victims, and domestic violence support groups are straining from the increase. They also face a potential $200 million in cuts to grant programs in the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. Layoffs at the CDC have also impacted domestic violence groups; staffers at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control were fired, including those who oversee programs including Rape Prevention and Education (RPE).

EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

King Thutmose II's Tomb

Piers Litherland knew he had made a major discovery when, having made his way down a long corridor and passing over piles of debris, he entered a room with a blue-painted ceiling with yellow stars, decorations reserved for pharaohs. Then he and his team from the New Kingdom Research Foundation and Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities discovered fragments of alabaster jars bearing the names of Thutmose II (1493–1479 BCE) and his wife, Pharaoh Hatshepsut. After 12 years of searching, Litherland had finally uncovered Thutmose's resting place, the last undiscovered tomb from Egypt's 18th Dynasty and that of an ancestor of Tutankhamun. As he left the tomb, Litherland broke into tears of joy. "The emotion of getting into these things is just one of extraordinary bewilderment," he told the BBC.



OUTER SPACE

Life on Another Planet?

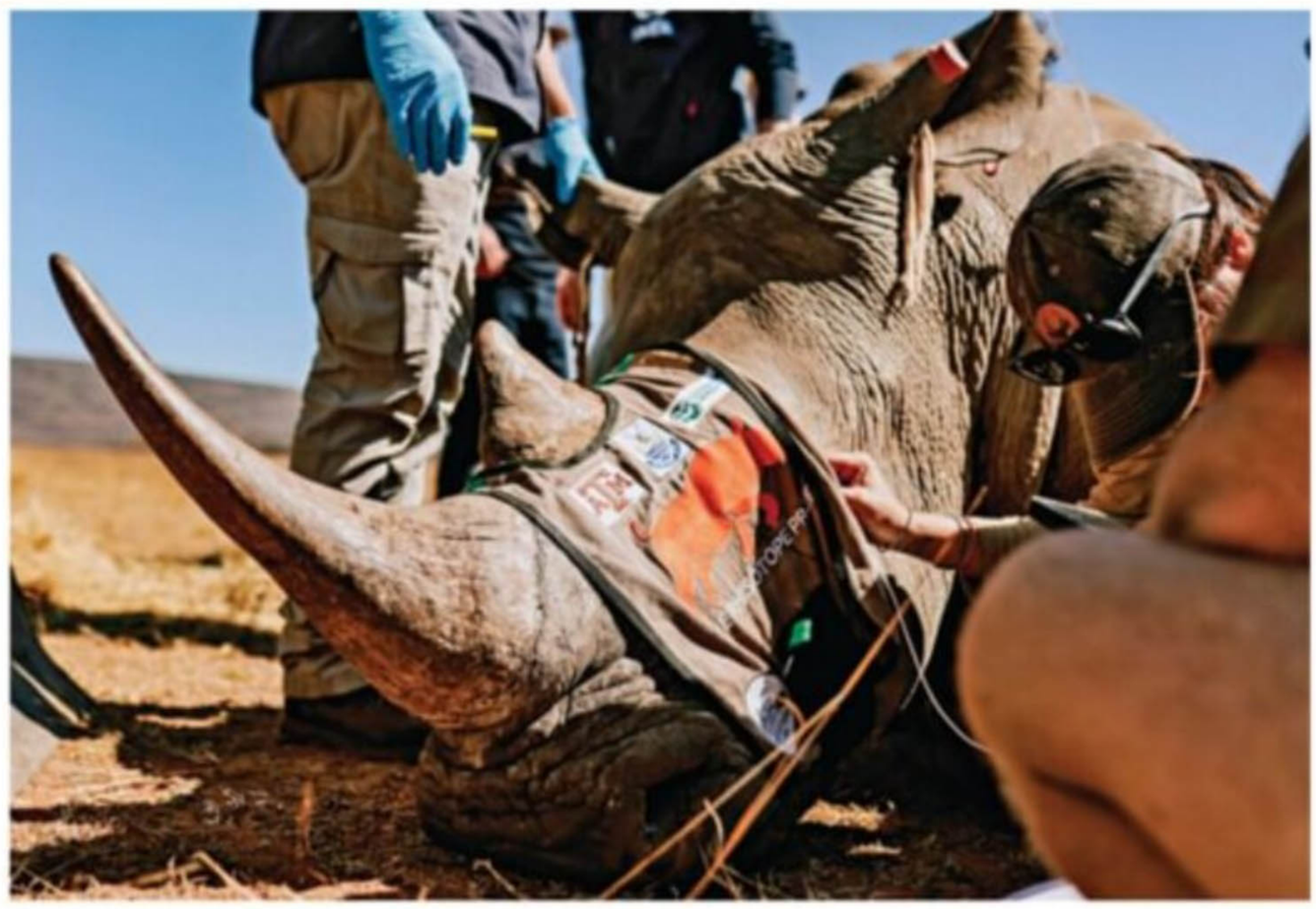
The planet known as K2-18b orbits a red dwarf star some 124 light years—700 trillion miles—away, in the constellation Leo. A team of astronomers led by the University of Cambridge have found what they claim are the promising but also tentative signs of possible life on the distant planet. Based on data gathered with the James Webb Space Telescope, the researchers detected in the atmosphere chemical fingerprints of at least one, if not two, molecules: dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and dimethyl disulfide (DMDS).

K2-18b is 2.6 times the size of earth, and like our planet, it orbits its star in a habitable zone where liquid water on their surfaces may exist. "On earth, DMS and DMDS are only produced by life, primarily microbial life, such as marine phytoplankton," a Cambridge press release explained, noting that the discovery is "the strongest evidence yet that life may exist on a planet outside our solar system."

Some have questioned the finding, and additional research needs to be conducted before anyone makes the bold claim that life has been found elsewhere in the universe.

SAVING SPECIES

Protecting Rhino Horns



South Africa has the most rhinos in the world, but the population has been devastated by poaching. In 2023, 499 rhinos were killed, and in 2024, the number was 420. Around 15,000 survive today. Many are shot for their horns, which on the Asian black market can fetch $60,000 per pound. The horns are essentially keratin, a protein found in nails and hair, and are used in traditional medicine, with people believing the substance can cure cancer, treat high blood pressure, prevent possession by evil spirits, and be used as a potent aphrodisiac.

As a last resort to stop the slaughter, wildlife managers have been cutting off the horns of sedated rhinos. While research shows dehorning reduces poaching, the horns grow back and have to be cut every one or two years. Seeking a better way to protect the creatures, which can weigh some 5,000 pounds, scientists have begun placing radioactive material in rhinos' horns. The Rhisotope Project calls for the injection of two tiny radioactive chips. Blood tests done after six months determined that the minimal radiation did not harm the creatures. But it does make the horns poisonous for humans who use them. The chips last five years, and according to James Larkin, who heads the program out of Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand, the material is "strong enough to set off detectors" at international border crossings, further cutting down on smuggling.

"The goal of the project really is to devalue the horns in the eyes of end users . . . to persuade them that this in fact isn't something they want," Larkin said.

THOSE MULTIARMED INVERTEBRATES

Hope for Starfish

For more than a decade, a mysterious and gruesome epidemic has devastated starfish from Alaska to Mexico along North America's Pacific coast. It causes their arms to twist off and their internal organs to leak out. The creatures then dissolve away, reduced to just bits of their skeletons. The wasting disease has affected 20 sea star species and is considered the largest known marine epidemic, with 90 percent of sunflower sea stars—some of the world's largest—dying off. The invertebrates prey on sea urchins, and their decline has led to a rise in the sea urchin populations. That increase has contributed to vanishing kelp forests, which are necessary to prevent coastal erosion.

In August, a team of scientists led by marine ecologist Alyssa-Lois Gehman at British Columbia's Hakai Institute determined that sea star wasting disease is caused by a bacteria known as *Vibrio pectenicida*. Efforts are now underway to restore the stars' numbers and create disease-resistant starfish, with groups like the Nature Conservancy working in tandem with aquariums.

DE-EXTINCTION

The Return of Lost Species

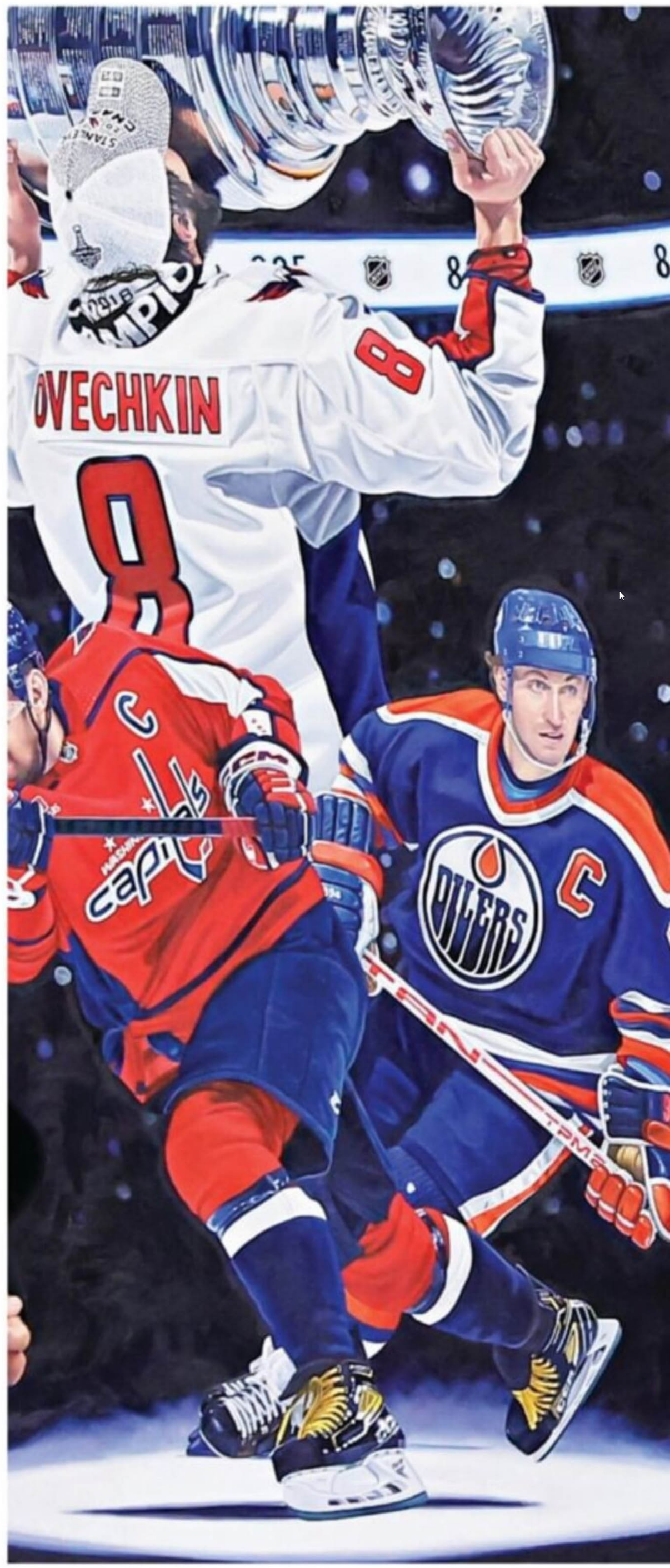
Six feet from nose to tail, dire wolves were truly formidable animals. The snowy-white creatures once ranged from Venezuela to China, but more than 10,000 years ago, they went extinct. Extinction may now no longer be forever. Using dire wolf remains, Dallas-based company Colossal Biosciences rewrote the genetic code of the common gray wolf, replaced it with traits found in DNA from dire wolf fossils, and used domestic dogs as surrogates, creating in late 2024 and early 2025 three pups: brothers Romulus and Remus and their sister, Khaleesi. For Colossal, the wolves represent an early step in the de-extinction of other creatures, such as the woolly mammoth, the dodo, and the moa, a 12-foot-tall flightless bird.

Scientific history is rife with examples of newly introduced species becoming invasive species that decimate native ones, and not everyone agrees that de-extinction is a good idea. Still, Colossal's scientists believe they are on to something powerful. The Center for Biological Diversity suggests that 30 percent of the planet's genetic richness will be lost by 2050, and the company claims the techniques they're using to summon back long-dead species can help hone genetic editing techniques to fortify threatened species and prevent other creatures from slipping away.

ALEX OVECHKIN PASSES THE GREAT ONE

The Washington Capitals captain broke Wayne Gretzky's 26-year-old goal-scoring record.

On April 6, the Washington Capitals and the New York Islanders faced off at UBS Arena in Elmont, New York. The Islanders were leading Washington 2 to 1 when Alex Ovechkin took a pass from teammate Tom Wilson and fired the puck into the net defended by the Islanders' Ilya Sorokin. The game abruptly stopped. This wasn't just another biscuit in the basket for Ovie, the "Great 8." The team captain and left winger had scored his 895th goal and bested the seemingly unbeatable record Wayne Gretzky set in 1999. An overwhelmed Ovechkin slid on his stomach across the ice and was mobbed by his joyous teammates. As the announcer yelled "The chasing days are done. Alex Ovechkin is the greatest goal scorer in the history of the NHL," the crowd chanted "Ovi! Ovi!" Gretzky and his wife, Janet, were in attendance, and the Great One made his way onto the ice and embraced the Great 8. Gretzky presented Ovechkin with a painting (right) and said, "They say records are made to be broken, but I'm not sure who's going to get more goals than that." Gretzky then told him, "Get to 900. If you get to 900, I might buy you a car." Said Ovechkin of the record: "I'm always going to be grateful for it." As an offensive force, Gretzky remans in a class of one. His career total of 2,857 points—goals plus assists—is almost 1,000 more than anyone in NHL history.



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TENNIS RIVALRY

Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner

Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner started battling at the Paris Masters in 2021, with the then 18-year-old and 35th-ranked Alcaraz upsetting the 20-year-old and 9th-ranked Sinner in straight sets, 7–6, 7–5. Following the match, Sinner told Alcaraz, "I hope we play a couple more times," to which a smiling Alcaraz responded, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, for sure."

They thankfully have, with the match that would spawn the slightly sinister portmanteau "Sincaraz" taking place on September 7, 2022, in the U.S. Open quarterfinals. Starting at 9:35 p.m., the two battled for five hours and 15 minutes, with the match ending at 2:50 a.m. Alcaraz, who is from Spain, won 6–3, 6–7, 6–7, 7–5, 6–3.

Their rivalry was just getting going. In the final at the French Open in May 2025, Alcaraz won a five-hour, 29-minute match. The following month at Wimbledon, Sinner, who is from Italy, took home the prize. Then, at the U.S. Open in September, they were back on the court: It was the first time the two men had played each other in three straight major finals during the same year. Alcaraz won 6–2, 3–6, 6–1, 6–4 and became, at age 22, the second youngest male player (after Bjorn Borg) to claim six major titles.

BASEBALL

The Dodgers Win Their Second-Straight World Series

The Los Angeles Dodgers began the season in March with baseball's highest payroll, the game's singular superstar in Shohei Ohtani, and as the odds-on favorite to win the World Series—179 games later, they did exactly that, becoming baseball's first back-to-back champions in a quarter century. They did so only after surviving a thrilling seven-game Series in which they trailed the Toronto Blue Jays three games to two before winning a pair of riveting games in Toronto, both decided on game-ending double plays. The Dodgers were losing Game 7 with two outs in the ninth inning when a home run by infielder Miguel Rojas kept the season alive. In the 11th inning, L.A. catcher Will Smith's homer put the team ahead 5–4, and that was the final score. Dodgers ace Yoshinobu Yamamoto, who won both Games 6 and 7, became the second Japanese-born player to be named World Series MVP. The final game drew 26 million viewers in the U.S.—the most to watch a Series game in eight years—as well as millions more in Canada and Japan, who tuned in to see one of the great teams in baseball history deliver a historic win.

MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Bubba Wallace's Indianapolis Win

In July, after two overtime restarts and Bubba Wallace's real fear that his No. 23 was going to run out of gas, Wallace couldn't help but shout "Unbelievable" as the 23XI Racing Toyota Camry car roared across the yard-of-bricks finish line at the Brickyard 400, .222 of a second ahead of NASCAR champion Kyle Larson in No. 5. Wallace's win in his eighth year of racing ended a frustrating 100-race winless streak in the NASCAR Cup Series and made Wallace the first African American to win a major race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. This gave the native of Mobile, Alabama, his first win in one of NASCAR's four crown jewel races. In October 2024, along with Front Row Motorsports, 23XI Racing—which sponsors Wallace and is majority owned by Michael Jordan—filed an antitrust lawsuit accusing NASCAR and its CEO, Jim France, of using anti-competitive practices to prevent fair competition. As this issue went to press, NASCAR was hoping to settle prior to trial.

Sports Briefs

College Athletes

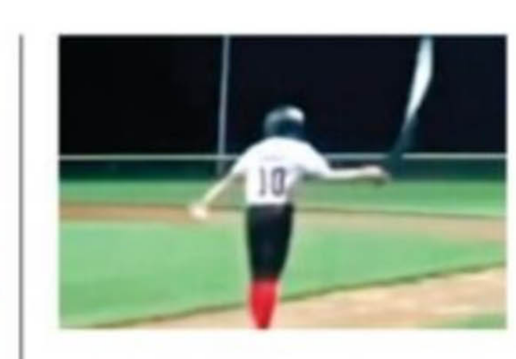
In June, a deal was approved allowing Division I schools to start paying their athletes. The NCAA will also dole out $2.8 billion in damages back to 2016.

Jen Pawol

In August, Jen Pawol put on her mask and took her spot behind the plate at Atlanta's Truist Park, becoming the first woman to umpire a regular-season MLB game.

ESPN and the NFL

ESPN acquired the rights to NFL Network and the distribution rights to NFL Fantasy and NFL RedZone, further consolidating media assets.



One Valuable Bat

When Haddonfield, New Jersey, Little Leaguer Marco Rocco hit a home run in July, he tossed his bat and earned a suspension. The bat was sold at auction for $9,882.

A TIME WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL RISING STAR

Paige Bueckers

The easiest thing to do in a basketball game is shoot the ball every single time you touch it, especially when you're the best player on the court. And Paige Bueckers is the best player on the court 99.99 percent of the time because she's so gifted offensively, defensively—she disrupts so much. The hardest thing to do is pass the ball. Paige does it, and that's what sets her apart. She lives in a world where there are so many commitments. But she works hard, and she does so in a way that encourages everyone. I love watching her play, the way she carries herself on the court with her teammates. When we talk about great competitors and champions—to get there, your teammates have to like you. And she gets the best out of her team because they love her. I got to see her win the NCAA championship for UConn this past year, shortly before she was drafted first overall by the Dallas Wings. She was beaming, because all she wanted to do was win a championship for our team, for our school, for herself, for her teammates. That's what makes her special: She wants to do it for everyone. *—Diana Taurasi, three-time WNBA champion and six-time Olympic gold medalist*

GOLF

Rory McIlroy

On the first hole of a sudden-death playoff against Justin Rose with the outcome in the balance, Rory McIlroy sank a three-foot putt into the cup at the Augusta Masters Tournament in April. McIlroy threw up his arms, tossed his putter high, fell to his knees, and wept. He then hugged his longtime bag man and childhood friend Harry Diamond. At the ceremony afterward, 2024's Masters winner, Scottie Scheffler, helped McIlroy slip on a 38 regular jacket. The brilliant green three-button, single-breasted jacket was anything but regular. McIlroy hadn't won a major tournament in 11 years. Speaking about his Masters win, he said, "My battle today was with myself. It wasn't with anyone else." He is now one of six players to have a career Grand Slam, having won all four of golf's major championships.

TENNIS

The Return of Venus Williams

After a 16-month break to attend to her health, seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Venus Williams appeared in Arthur Ashe Stadium at the U.S. Open in September after returning to tennis at the D.C. Open in July. This was Williams' 25th time in Flushing Meadows, and at 45, she was the oldest player in the tournament. She played the 1,100th match of her singles career against 11th-seeded Karolina Muchova, who beat Williams 6–2, 2–6, 6–1. In doubles, Williams made it to the quarterfinals with partner Leylah Fernandez before being defeated by Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniaková, 6–1, 6–2. After losing to Muchová, Williams said, "I didn't win today, but I'm very proud of how I played."

FOOTBALL

The Eagles Soar

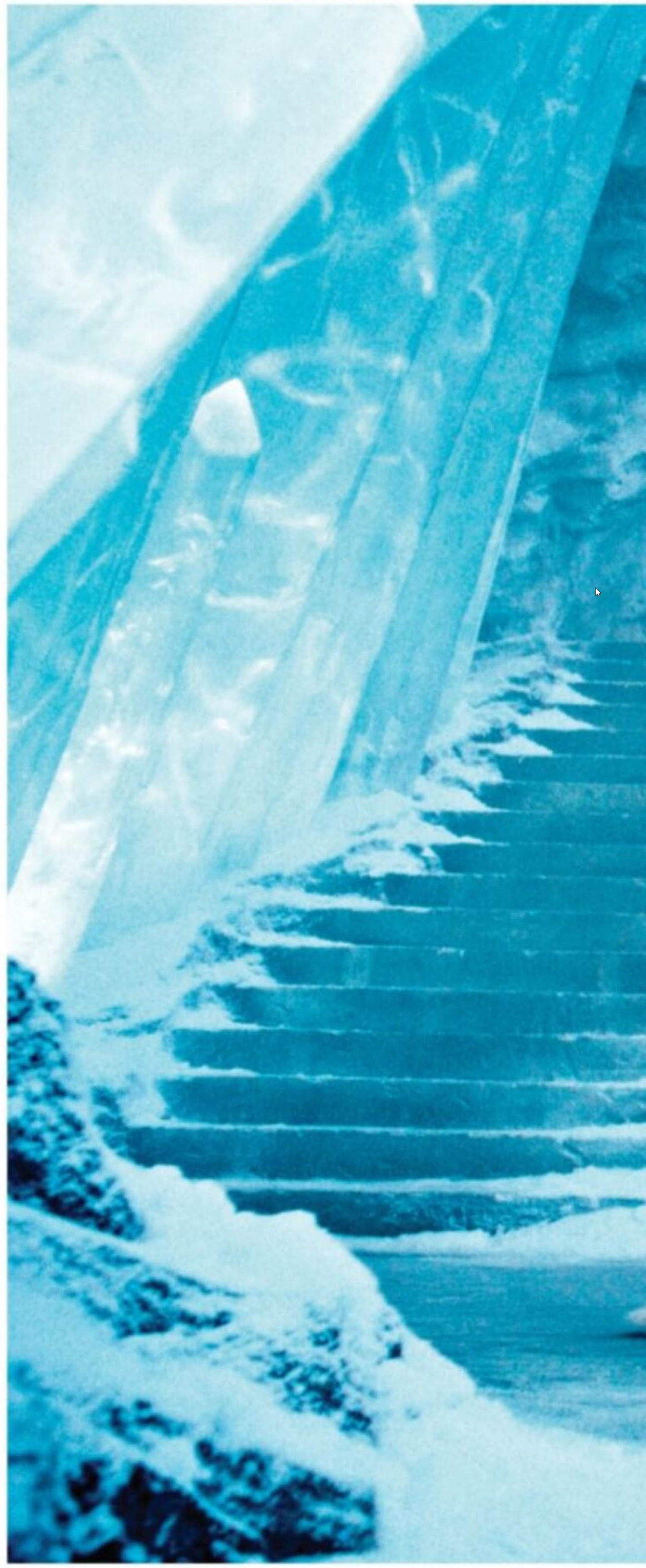
When the four-time Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs headed to New Orleans in February for Super Bowl LIX, they were dreaming of becoming the Big Game's first three-peat winners. But by the time the game against the Philadelphia Eagles was over, Chiefs fans were wondering, "What just happened there?" Well, Philadelphia happened. The Eagles, behind quarterback Jalen Hurts (above, with the Lombardi Trophy) moved out to a 34–0 lead in the third quarter of a dominant 40–22 win. Running back Saquon Barkley, completing his first season with the team, set an NFL record for most rushing yards in regular season and postseason combined (2,504). The game marked Philadelphia's third Super Bowl appearance and second win in eight years—only the Chiefs have more of each. Hurts and his teammates began the 2025 season hoping for more and won six of their first eight games.

A SUPER DUO

Look up in the sky! It's a bird! it's a plane!—it's Superman and his superdog, Krypto!

YES, HE IS STILL FASTER THAN A SPEEDING bullet and stronger than a locomotive. And unlike other recent cinematic flights of Superman, writer-director James Gunn's 2025 film offers a wonderfully uncomplicated Man of Steel. David Corenswet plays the guileless caped Kryptonian who is always eager to save his adopted planet and avoid the machinations of wily criminals and politicians. The movie brought in almost $616 million worldwide, lifting the Superman franchise to more than $3 billion in gross box office. Of course, it's never quiet along the streets of or in the skies above Metropolis. That means that Superman must again battle his archnemesis, Lex Luthor, played by an envy-consumed Nicholas Hoult. Luthor abhors the existence of the alien do-gooder and fumes that these measly Earthlings adore him. Luthor orchestrates a fake-news campaign to smear Superman while also marshaling a host of supervillains, such as the Engineer (María Gabriela de Faría), to foment a war between the Eastern European nations of Boravia and Jarhanpur. This upends international relations while allowing Lex to make a buck—actually, billions and billions of bucks. Thankfully, Superman links up with the Justice Gang metahumans and enlists the help of his girlfriend, *Daily Planet* colleague Lois Lane—a gutsy, take-charge Rachel Brosnahan—in his battle for peace.

The biggest treat of this Superman is the cinematic debut of Krypto. The bouncy and loyal Kryptonian pup first appeared in 1955 in Aventure Comics #210, and there was also a *Krypto the Superdog* TV animated series (2005–2006). Krypo's inclusion here is a real star turn. He might have what Superman refers to as real "behavioral issues," but Krypto is a very, very good superdog. He not only saves Superman at the start of the film, he also fights alongside him in the never-ending battle for Truth and Justice—as well as a tasty dog treat.



STOP MOTION ANIMATION

Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl

Discovery is alive and "cracking good" at 62 West Wallaby Street, where eccentric inventor Wallace lives with his loyal, learned (he reads *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woof!) yet unappreciated beagle, Gromit. Back in 1993, in Nick Park's Academy Award–winning claymation *Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers*, the duo nabbed Feathers McGraw, a gem-heisting penguin who stole an ostrich-egg-size blue diamond. In the new *Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl,* by Park and Merlin Crossingham, Feathers is back. So as Wallace continues to churn out his wild, Rube-Goldbergesque inventions—his newest is Norbot, an unsettling-looking robotic garden gnome that does maintenance work—Feathers hatches his plans to settle the score. He escapes from the zoo lockup where he has been cooling his feathers, reprograms Norbot, constructs an army of evil Norbots, and seeks to get his wings on the sparkler he was previously thwarted from possessing. With comical nods to Buster Keaton, *Fantasia*, *Alien*, and James Bond, *Vengeance* is a "smashing" action-packed film.

DOCUMENTARY

My Mom Jayne

When actor Mariska Hargitay was 3 years old, her mother, movie star Jayne Mansfield, died in a car accident. In the touching *My Mom Jayne*, Hargitay summons scraps of facts and remembrances to piece together the truth about her own identity. She hopscotches through Mansfield's life, her Broadway success, and how the actress had to settle, somewhat unhappily, for being a sex symbol. In the process, Hargitay, the star of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, makes peace with the mom she never knew. When she tenderly tells her mother, "I see myself in you for the first time," we, too, understand more about the charming, ambitious performer whose star never burned as brightly as she'd hoped.

Movie Briefs

Jurassic World Rebirth

You would think by now everyone would know better than to head to an island filled with flesh-eating dinosaurs. But they don't.

Spinal Tap II: The End Continues

The mock heavy-metal band is hot once again, and they're back for a final concert/reunion with real superstar cameos.

The Phoenician Scheme

Wes Anderson's latest, as quirky as ever, follows a shady businessman as he seeks to make sure his succession plan is in order.

Un Simple Accident

Jafar Panahi took home the Palme d'Or at Cannes for this film about a group that kidnaps a man they believe tortured them in prison.

A SOUTHERN GOTHIC BLOODFEST

Sinners

Ryan Coogler's chilling, hypnotic, and occasionally grimly funny *Sinners* slowly yields to mystery while never seeking to overexplain. Twin brothers Smoke and Stack, played by Michael B. Jordan, return to Clarksdale, a town in the Mississippi Delta, in 1932. Flush with cash from working for the Chicago mob, they buy an old sawmill from the local head of the Klan. With a truckload of booze, they open a blues juke joint. They have the help of their cousin Sammie (Miles Caton), who can do more than just strum a guitar. His preternatural abilities bring to mind the bluesman Robert Johnson, who it's said sold his soul to the devil so he could excel at his music. Sammie clearly has a God-given gift, one that his father, the local pastor, wants him to commit to the Lord and not the evil promises dangled by his cousins. But the lure of Sammie's blues guitar is too strong, and as we learn from a voiceover, he can make music "so true it can conjure spirits from the past and the future." Sammie, the pianist and harmonica player Delta Slim (Delroy Lindo), and singers Pearline (Jayme Lawson) and Mary (Hailee Steinfeld) soon get the joint a-hopping. The music not only attracts the locals but also some they would rather not admit: folk-music-playing vampires more interested in red blood than the Delta blues. The humans inside the joint need to keep the evil ones out, and *Sinners* is not only about who in society is in charge but also those interlopers who yearn to belong, and what connects us rather than divides us. All hope to discover that communion in music, in dancing, in talking and laughing, but also in solace with one another during tragedy.

NO LAUGHING MATTER

The War on Comedy

Politicians offer an ever-giving font of material for comedians, and late-night hosts drink almost daily at the well. Some, like President John F. Kennedy, enjoyed the ribbing. But not Donald Trump, who has stated that comedians are "not allowed to do that."

Stephen Colbert, host of *The Late Show* on CBS, has been a longtime thorn in the president's side. Days after he called the network's payment of $16 million to settle a lawsuit with Trump a "big fat bribe"—one that coincided with the FCC giving approval for CBS's parent company Paramount Global's merger with Skydance Media—Colbert's show was cancelled, but it is expected to air until May 2026. Trump then took to Truth Social, writing: "Jimmy Kimmel is NEXT to go in the untalented Late Night Sweepstakes and, shortly thereafter, Fallon will be gone."

After Turning Point founder Charlie Kirk's murder in September, Kimmel said on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* that the "MAGA gang" were eager to classify the alleged killer as "anything other than one of them" and accused them of trying to "score political points." FCC chair Brendan Carr, a Trump appointee who, as a commissioner in 2022, stated that "Political satire is one of the oldest and most important forms of free speech," now called Kimmel's comments "some of the sickest conduct possible." Soon after, ABC suspended Kimmel.

Many were stunned by what they saw as an assault on constitutionally protected speech. There were calls for a boycott of Disney. Millions cancelled their Disney+ subscriptions, and the corporation's value dropped by nearly $5 billion. Even Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican who is not a fan of Kimmel, lambasted the decision. Imitating a mobster's voice, Cruz observed, "That's right out of a mafioso coming into a bar and going, 'Nice bar you have here, it'd be a shame if something happened to it.'" A few days later, Disney lifted Kimmel's suspension.

THE YELLOWSTONE SAGA

1923

Life has not been easy for the Dutton family. In *1883* (2021–2022), they made the perilous journey from Tennessee to Montana, settling in at what would become their Yellowstone ranch. In *Yellowstone* (2018–2024), John Dutton III (Kevin Costner) battled current-day developers to save the family's huge spread. And in *1923* (2020–2025), which recently ended as the last of the initial multi-generational Paramount+ saga, Jacob and Cara Dutton (Harrison Ford and Helen Mirren, above) need to protect what they have from the evil machinations of Donald Whitfield (Timothy Dalton), all the while hoping that their nephew Spencer (Brandon Sklenar), a World War I Medal of Honor winner, can make it back in time to join in the fight. And what a blazing shootout it is. While the Dutton trilogy has come to an explosive end, numerous related tales from Montana are in store from creator Taylor Sheridan, with John III's son Kayce (Luke Grimes) heading up 2026's *Y: Marshals*.

A DEATH IN YORKSHIRE

Adolescence

In an English town, 13-year-old Jamie Miller (Owen Cooper) is accused of stabbing his classmate Katie to death. The show's four episodes, each shot by cinematographer Matthew Lewis in a masterfully choreographed single take, follow the search for an understanding of why Jamie killed her and how his family and the officers and a psychologist try to make sense of a senseless murder. Directed by Philip Barantini, the Netflix show explores cyber-bullying, the pressures on and expectations of young men, the concept of an "incel"—an involuntary celibate who is rejected by women—the pervasive and harmful effects of social media, and the hopes and regrets of parenthood. *Adolescence* won nine Emmys, with an outstanding supporting actor statuette for Cooper, who in his debut performance became the youngest male recipient of the award.

A FINAL WISH

Dying for Sex

Molly, played with impish vivacity and quiet resolve by Michelle Williams in *Dying for Sex,* bears little resemblance to the Hollywood archetype of the beautiful young woman succumbing to cancer. Instead, the show is a brutally frank, disarmingly raunchy, and often funny rejoinder to the perfect-patient narrative—an affirmation of life through the insistence that there's no wrong way to face the certainty of death that ultimately awaits us all. The FX limited series is based on the podcast the real Molly Kochan recorded with her best friend, Nikki Boyer, about Kochan's radical response to her stage IV diagnosis. Molly embarks upon a sexual odyssey, recruiting Nikki (Jenny Slate) for help as she throws herself into hookups and discovers an appetite for dominance. With dialogue that is equally sharp in funny moments, *Dying for Sex* becomes the rare cancer story that celebrates life in all its perverse idiosyncrasies without shrinking from the specter of death.

REGAINING HER MUSIC

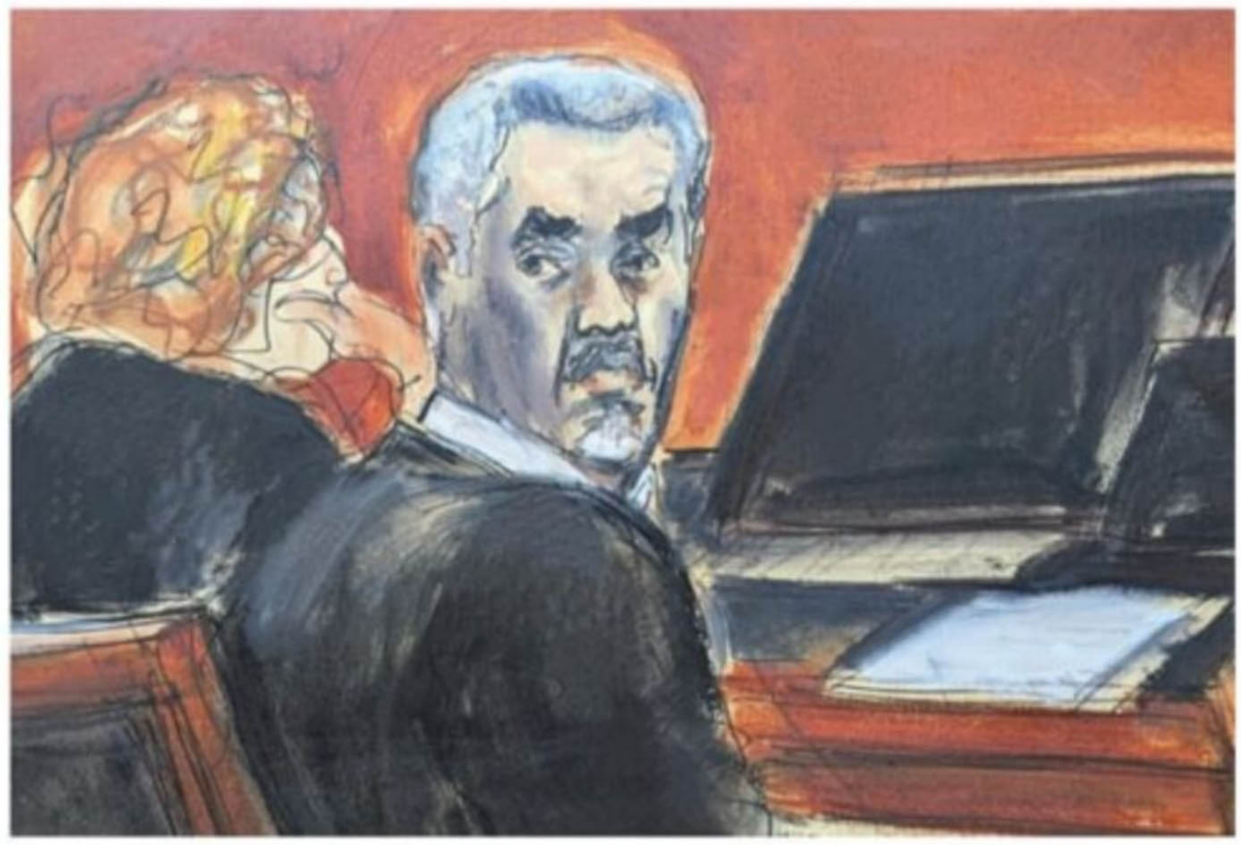
Taylor's Big Year

In May, nearly six years after her former record label sold them, Taylor Swift reportedly paid about $360 million for the original recordings of her first six albums. Now that the dispute over ownership of her catalog is finally over, the star— who got engaged to Travis Kelce in August— can officially call her albums "mine." She owns all her music (including unreleased songs), videos, and concert films. "To say this is my greatest dream come true is actually being pretty reserved about it," Swift wrote to her fans.

DOWNFALL OF A MUSIC MOGUL

Sean Combs' Conviction

In July, following an eight-week trial, Sean "Diddy" Combs was found guilty of two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution. But the jury acquitted the Grammy-winning "I'll Be Missing You" singer of more serious allegations, including sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy. Stating that Combs, 56, "has challenged his factual guilt full-throatedly" and failed to show remorse for what he did, Judge Arun Subramanian on October 3 sentenced him to more than four years in prison and five years of supervised release, and fined him $500,000.



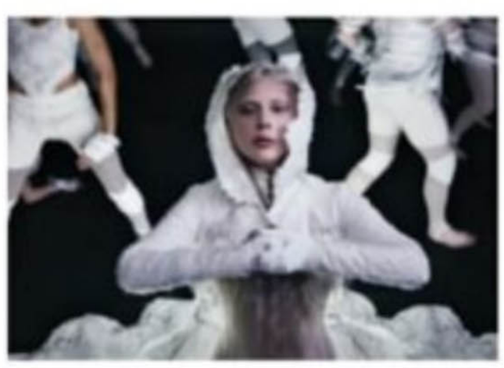
Music Briefs

The CMT Awards

The merger of Paramount and Skydance paused the country music awards show, as well as the MTV Europe Music Awards.

BTS

After a three-year hiatus to complete their mandatory military service, the boy band is back with an upcoming album and world tour.



Lady Gaga

Her seventh studio album, *Mayhem*, gave fans the song and video "Abracadabra" and a return to the singer's earlier frenetic dance moves.

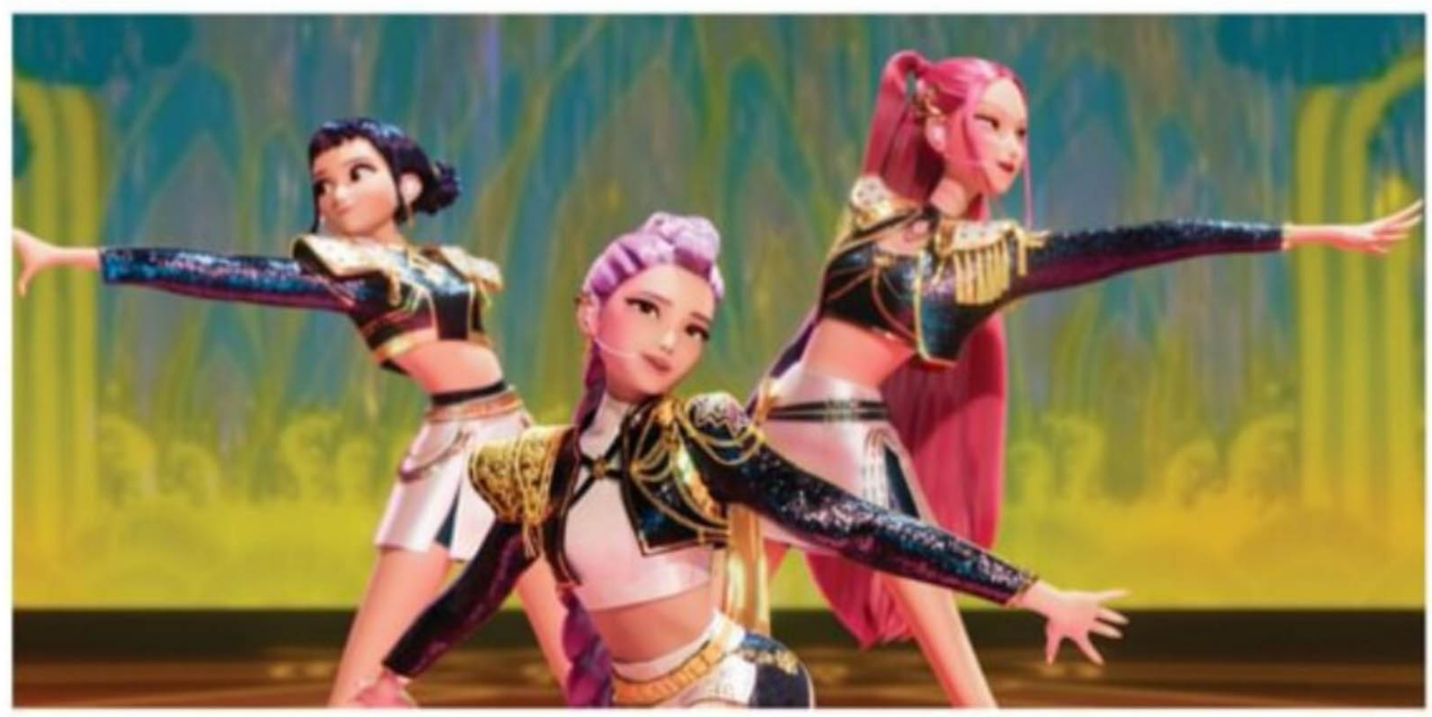
Aiyana-Lee

The singer not only wrote and sang the title track in Spike Lee's new release, *Highest 2 Lowest,* she also made a glorious acting debut in the film.

AN ARTIST'S STELLAR YEAR

Kendrick Lamar

Kendrick Lamar's raps are dense with religious mysticism and racial treatise and have not so secretly dominated rap music. His 2017 album *DAMN.* made him the first rapper to win a Pulitzer Prize. The 2025 Grammys proved a stunning affirmation of Lamar's reach. His "Not Like Us" tied with the 5th Dimension's 1967 "Up, Up and Away" as the most decorated song in the history of the recording academy, winning all five of its nominations. It was just one high point in an extraordinary year for the artist from Compton. Just a week later, he made history as the first solo rap artist to perform at the Super Bowl. His halftime show drew 133.5 million viewers, making it the most-watched Super Bowl halftime performance ever. He then received an Emmy for outstanding music direction for the show. And in June, Lamar picked up five BET Awards—including album of the year for *GNX*—and the North American leg of his tour with SZA grossed a record $256 million for a co-headlining tour.



THE BANE OF THE SUPERNATURAL

KPop Demon Hunters

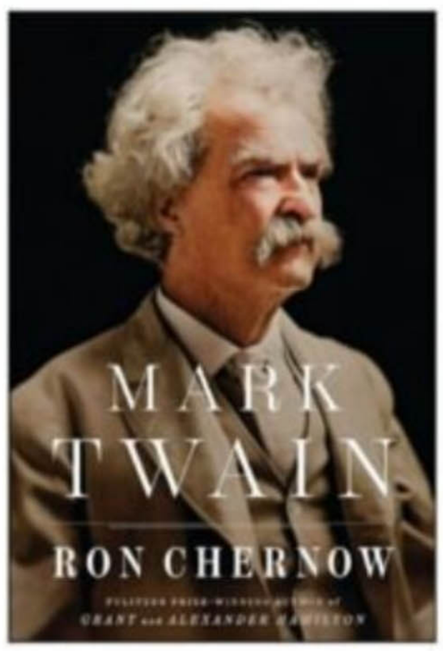
Rumi, Mira, and Zoey are the kimbap-loving stars of Huntr/x, a mega-successful K-pop girl group. They also moonlight as a team of demon hunters on a show that is both emotionally rewarding and completely rewatchable as it blends comedy, action, music, and a dash of supernatural horror. Since its debut on Netflix in June, the movie's success is showing no signs of slowing: With more than 325 million views so far, it is the streamer's most-watched film ever. In August, sing-along events were held in movie theaters, with the film becoming Netflix's first No. 1 box-office title. The soundtrack is also the first ever to have four Top 10 songs in the Billboard Hot 100 at once. "Golden," the most popular track, was one of the most-streamed songs in the United States.

A TITAN OF THE THEATER

Audra McDonald

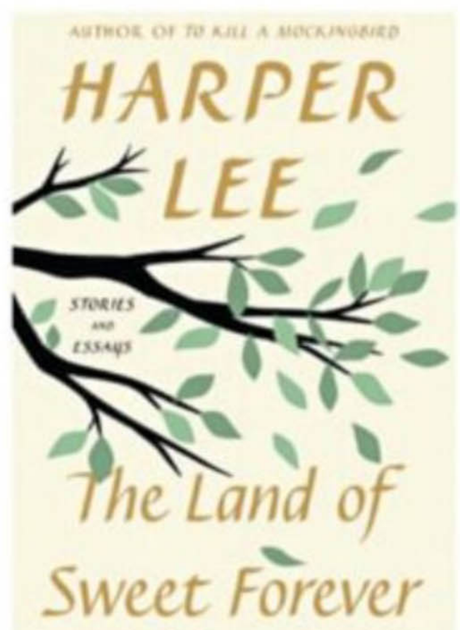
With her record 11th Tony nomination in May for her turn in *Gypsy* as Mama Rose, Audra McDonald's lustrous presence has made her one of our greatest living stage actors, and the only person to have a Tony in all four acting categories. And while Broadway these days seems populated by Hollywood big names and consumed by celebrity, McDonald's career represents a commitment to the old-fashioned principles of artistry. "She has some ability to access the rawest and most visceral emotional life and continue to sing," says Diane Paulus, who directed her in the 2012 production *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*. "That's what's mind-blowing."

Books Briefs



Ron Chernow: *Mark Twain*

The author of *Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures* of *Huckelberry Finn* gets a magisterial 1,200-page telling of his life. Chernow, the author of a Pulitzer Prize–winning biography of George Washington, chronicles the works and accomplishments of the man he calls "the largest literary personality that America has produced."



Harper Lee: *The Land of Sweet Forever*

In 2015, HarperCollins published Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*, an early version of her beloved Pulitzer-winning *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Lee died in 2016, and more of her writings are now appearing. *The Land of Sweet Forever* offers eight previously unknown short stories along with eight of her published nonfiction pieces.

THEATER

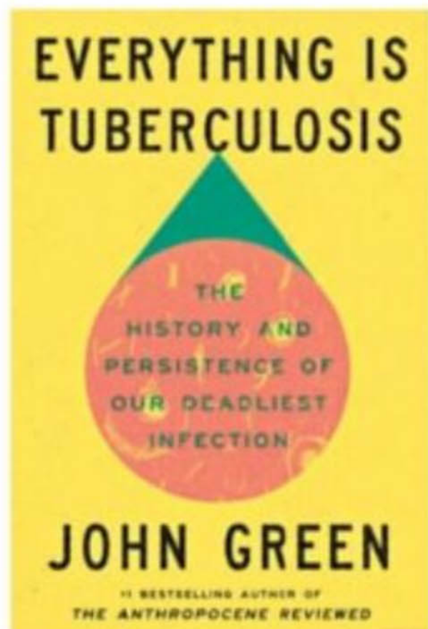
John Proctor Is the Villain

It's the dawn of the #MeToo movement, and in a conservative Georgia high school, some of the girls want to start a feminism club in response to the sexual predators they see all around them. The administration reluctantly allows it, and their teacher, Carter Smith (Gabriel Ebert), tries to get them interested in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. The play describes 1950s McCarthyism through the lens of the 17th-century Salem witch trials, a real event that took the lives of 20 people. In *The Crucible,* John Proctor has an affair with his servant Abigail Williams, and when Proctor's wife, Elizabeth, learns of it, she fires her. Scorned, Williams and other young women concoct the presence of witchcraft to seek vengeance on Salemites they dislike. But while Smith tells his class that *The Crucible* is about "a great hero," the female students refuse to see Proctor that way. Shelby Holcomb (played by Sadie Sink, center, below, with Morgan Scott and Amalia Yoo) and the other girls view the women as the heroes, flipping the perception of guilt during a witch hunt while creating a new stage classic.

A CULTURAL COUP

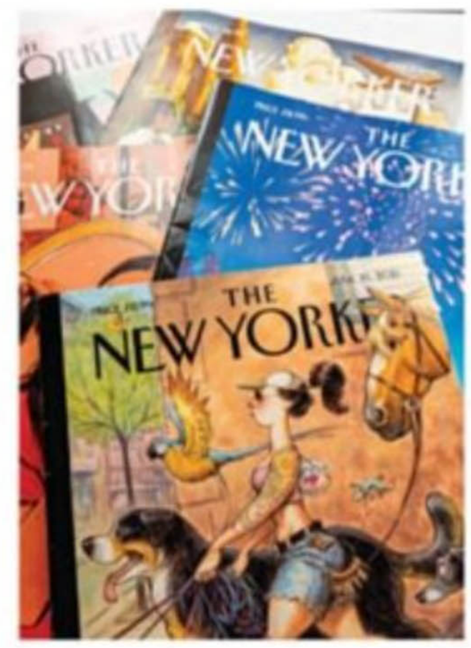
The Kennedy Center

During Donald Trump's first term, artists protested his administration and threatened to boycott the annual Kennedy Center Honors, so Trump never set foot in the arts building on the Potomac. At the start of his second term, the president was feeling less magnanimous. He dismissed half of the center's board members and installed loyalist Richard Grenell as interim president and executive director. The new board then made Trump the center's chairman, empowering him, in effect, to police the artistic choices being made in the de facto palace of the nation's performing arts. "We will make The Kennedy Center a very special and exciting place!" Trump wrote. It's still not clear what this MAGA takeover could mean. But roughly 2,200 world premieres each year of musical theater, opera, and orchestral and dance events take place at the Kennedy Center, drawing 2 million visitors—all of whom may feel Trump's hand as curator. In protest, performers and tours have canceled stops at the center, with a planned staging of *Hamilton* called off. Producer Jeffrey Seller wrote on X that the change "flies in the face of everything this national center represents."



John Green: *Everything Is Tuberculosis*

The author known for his YA novels masterfully chronicles the devastation wrought by tuberculosis. While little noticed these days in the West, the curable disease continues to be a scourge in much of the rest of the world. It kills about a million people a year and in the late 19th century caused the death of 1 in 7 in the U.S. and Europe.



The New Yorker at 100

When Harold Ross founded *The New Yorker* in 1925, he envisioned it as "a reflection in word and picture of metropolitan life." Over the past century, the magazine has launched many writers' and editors' careers, and it continues its storied tradition by offering in-depth reporting, reviews, fiction, and poetry, as well as must-see and must-share cartoons.

A CULTURAL TRAGEDY

The Louvre Is Robbed

The truck with a mechanical ladder that moves bulky items through windows, a common sight on Paris streets, pulled up on October 19 to the side of the Louvre, where it was secured with construction cones. Two people in construction vests went up the ladder to the second floor and used grinders to break a window and carry out one of the most brazen art heists of the century. As alarms blared in Galerie d'Apollon and museumgoers fled, the thieves threatened security with power tools, smashed open display cases, and scooped up some of France's cultural patrimony of royal jewelry, including an emerald-and-diamond necklace and earrings that belonged to Empress Marie-Louise (below). They then hopped onto high-powered scooters and disappeared into the city's morning traffic. The theft lasted less than seven minutes. The eight missing items are estimated at more than $100 million, and unlike paintings, which are often hard to sell, gems can be removed from their settings and sold more easily. Within two weeks of the theft, four people were charged.

PUBLISHING SUCCESSION

Anna Wintour

For nearly four decades, Anna Wintour served as editor in chief of monthly fashion bible American *Vogue*. Known as a style powerhouse with an intimidating reputation, she is said to have been the inspiration for Meryl Streep's Miranda Priestly in *The Devil Wears Prada*. Chloe Malle, who was the editor of *Vogue*'s website, is replacing her. While she's stepping down as editor, Wintour will continue as Condé Nast's global chief content officer, as well as editorial director not only of *Vogue* but also for *AD*, *GQ*, and *Vanity Fair*. As Wintour told her staff during the announcement: "Now I find that my greatest pleasure is helping the next generation of impassioned editors storm the field with their own ideas."

THOSE LOVABLE TOOTHY MONSTERS

Labubu

Labubu have serrated teeth and pointy ears and look nothing like a cuddly Hello Kitty doll. Hooked to backpacks and purses and set on dressers, they became all the rage after celebrities like Blackpink's Lisa and David Beckham were seen with them. These collectables were created by Kasing Lung to accompany his Nordic-based trilogy of graphic books *The Monsters*. The stories follow the creature that, while kind-hearted and who always wants to help, unfortunately often accidentally achieves the opposite. Chinese manufacturer Pop Mart has so far released 300 different Labubu toys. Each doll costs around $15, with large vinyl versions going for more than $900. Some collectors have even shelled out thousands: At a Beijing auction in June, a turquoise-colored Labubu sold for more than $150,000.

ARCHITECTURAL TRAGEDIES

Los Angeles's Loss

Fires raged in Los Angeles in January, consuming more than 16,000 homes and structures. The city is home to a wide variety of 19th- and 20th-century architectural styles, from Victorian and Craftsman to Beaux Arts and modernist. The blaze burned many beloved landmarks and architectural masterpieces, such as Robert Bridges' 1980s brutalist-style Bridges House, a cantilevered cliff-dangling residence jutting off a hillside. Also lost was the 1929 Topanga Ranch Motel, a row of some of the lone survivors of a California bungalow-style motel that offered vacationers an inexpensive place to stay at the beach and appeared in such TV shows as *Mannix*. Others gone are works like 708 House by Eric Owen Moss, with its quirky angles; Ray Kappe's treehouse-like Keeler structure; the buildings of Austrian-American architect Richard Neutra; and the 31-room Pacific Palisades residence of early 20th-century humorist and radio and movie star Will Rogers. Thankfully, such structures as Charles and Ray Eames' 1949 home and studio were spared.

Will Rogers' Home

Bridges House

Topanga Ranch Motel

Farewell

ROBERT REDFORD

The actor, director, and champion of indie filmmaking was also an activist who sought to protect the environment.

A GENUINELY DAZZLING MOVIE STAR WHO used his charm and money to give aspiring filmmakers a leg up, to help protect the natural world, and to show by example how film storytelling can not only reflect facets of the American character but help shape it: A human being who could do all that seems almost impossible to fathom in this age of disinformation and ugly political discord. But that was Robert Redford. As an actor, producer, and director, Redford touched every aspect of the movie business, and as an environmentalist, he sought to protect the land. But most essentially, he was a communicator, an artist who could speak to us in a place beyond words, with just the flicker of a smile. He was the kind of guy who made you lean in close to hear what he had to say, a man who seems to have packed more than one lifetime into his 89 years on earth before he left us on September 16.

Redford's breakthrough came in the 1963 play *Barefoot in the Park;* in 1967, he would costar with Jane Fonda in the film. He shot to stardom with 1969's *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. It's hard, though, to adequately list Redford's accomplishments. His directorial debut, 1980's *Ordinary People,* won four Oscars. As an actor, he chose projects carefully, often gravitating to roles that connected with the absurdity of politics and its potential to foster corruption, such as the journalism drama *All the President's Men*. He wasn't content to stop at being an actor, producer, and director: He founded the Sundance Institute to help independent filmmakers and created the Sundance Film Festival. To watch Redford in a movie is to find yourself yielding to an irresistible magnetic power. On hearing of his death, Jane Fonda said, "I can't stop crying. He meant a lot to me and was a beautiful person in every way."

MUSICIAN

Brian Wilson

As songwriter and co-lead vocalist, Brian Wilson, who died on June 11 at 82, shaped the Beach Boys' timeless sound, starting with the chart-climbing singles "Surfin' U.S.A." and "I Get Around," lifting pop music into a realm of sun-kissed good feeling and vibrations that defined the dream of Southern California in the 1960s. Wilson's masterpiece was the 1966 album *Pet Sounds*, a record that, after hearing it, the Beatles—who regarded the Beach Boys, not the Rolling Stones, as their creative rivals—went into the studio to answer it with *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Wilson then sought to top *Pet Sounds* himself, setting to work on *Smile*, an album he imagined as a "teenage symphony to God." But mental-health issues and a controlling therapist sidetracked Wilson's career, with only bits of the *Smile* record appearing until its release in 2004. "The music is mystic, mad, wild and gentle, quite unlike anything anyone, including Wilson, had ever tried in pop before," TIME's Jay Cocks wrote after hearing some of the songs. "The lyrics were as fleeting as a waking dream; the musical tracks were layered as if Wilson were a kid in his room stacking 45-r.p.m. records on top of one another."

ACTOR AND DIRECTOR

Diane Keaton

Woody Allen was right when he told *People* that Diane Keaton was "one of the greatest natural comediennes." Sparkling, quirky, and versatile didn't begin to describe her. Keaton broke out in 1972's *Play It Again, Sam*, the first of eight films she made with Allen. That same year, she played Michael Corleone's trusting wife in *The Godfather*, and she went on to appear in more than 70 movies. She won a best actress Oscar for 1977's *Annie Hall* and directed such films as 1995's *Unstrung Heroes*. On learning of her death on October 11 at age 79, Allen wrote, "A few days ago the world was a place that included Diane Keaton. Now it's a world that does not. Hence, it's a drearier world. Still, there are her movies. And her great laugh still echoes in my head."

FILMMAKER

David Lynch

David Lynch was so extraordinary that his last name became a descriptive adjective. But even as he inspired countless artists, no one was more Lynchian than Lynch, who died on January 15 at age 78. His hypnotic black-and-white 1977 feature-film debut *Eraserhead* and his seductively depraved 1986 *Blue Velvet* could feel a little intimidating at first. Yet once you gave yourself over to being weirded out, you only wanted more. A quintessentially American filmmaker, Lynch was alive to all of the things we think and hope for, even as he probed the secrets we'd rather keep under wraps. We are all lucky to be alive right now, in the age of Lynch.

MUSICIAN

Sly Stone

Sly Stone wrung greatness out of the American abyss. The musician, who died on June 9 at age 82, was an avatar of a more peaceful future. Sly and the Family Stone, one of America's first mainstream racially integrated bands, fused funk, rock, soul, and psychedelia into up-tempo anthems with motivational messages. Yet following the assassinations of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1968, and as the Vietnam War dragged on, Stone grew disillusioned. He channeled his discontent into the 1971 album *There's a Riot Goin' On*, which captured a sociopolitical undercurrent that America had long resisted acknowledging. While the album confused some reviewers then, it is now revered as an American classic. With bass and drums influencing later funk icons such as Parliament Funkadelic and groundbreaking jazz-funk explorations from Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock, here is the sound of a genius straining against the edges of convention.

VICE PRESIDENT

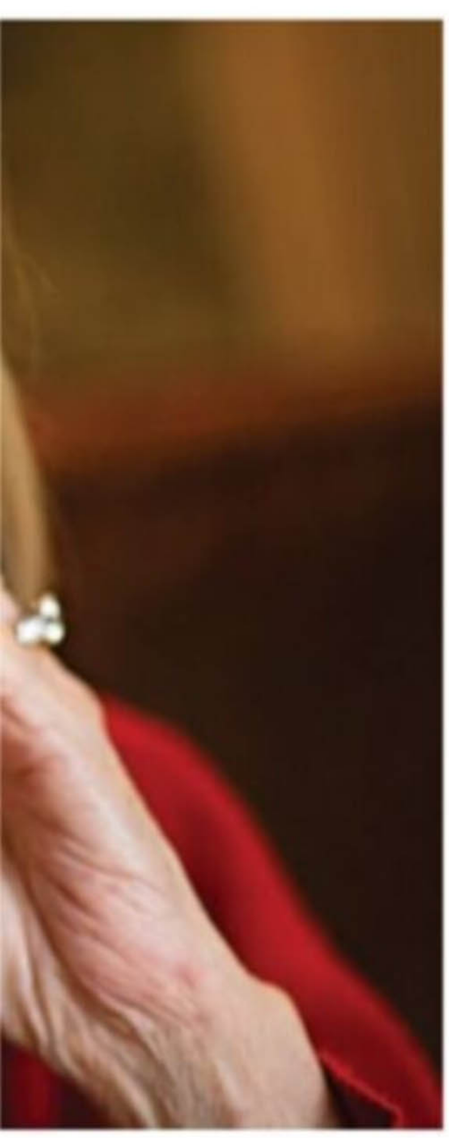
Dick Cheney

Dick Cheney was one of the most influential and polarizing leaders in U.S. history. He served as chief of staff under President Gerald Ford. As secretary of defense under President George H.W. Bush, he was one of the leading forces behind the 1990–1991 Persian Gulf War. He then served as vice president under Bush's son, George W. Bush. Cheney transformed the vice president's office from a ceremonial one to a position of power. With the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the subsequent invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, he helped lead the "War on Terror." In his later years, Cheney, who died on November 3 at 84, became a vocal critic of President Donald Trump. Following Trump's 2020 election loss to Joe Biden, Cheney, along with the other nine living former defense secretaries, signed a letter saying that Trump had in fact lost and that "the time for questioning the results has passed." Three days later, Trump's supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol.

PLAYWRIGHT AND ACTIVIST

Athol Fugard

Athol Fugard explored the suffering and damages brought on by the scourge of apartheid in his native South Africa, something he called "a daily tally of injustice." The playwright, who died March 8 at age 92, was a lifelong opponent of his nation's segregationist laws, fighting with the government by working with Black writers and actors. TIME's T.E. Kalem called Fugard's 1980 staging of *A Lesson from Aloes* a play that "indicts the impoverishment of spirit and the warping distortion of moral energy," something that engulfed both Black and white South Africans. Fugard wrote more than 30 plays, with six, including A *Lesson* and *"Master Harold"...and the Boys,* appearing on Broadway.



SPY CATCHER

Sandra Grimes

No one suspected CIA counterintelligence chief for Soviet operations Aldrich Ames of anything nefarious. But counterintelligence analyst Sandra Grimes, who died July 25 at age 79, noticed that Ames had been making large cash deposits after having lunch with a Soviet Embassy official, telling colleagues, "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to tell what is going on here. Rick is a goddamn Russian spy." Ames received at least $2.7 million from the Russians, and the information he passed on led to the death of 10 Soviet bloc informants. Ames pled guilty and is serving a life sentence, and in 2012, Grimes cowrote the book *Circle of Treason*, an account of the case.

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

When her husband, Dennis, was murdered and her son, Kevin, severely wounded during the Long Island Rail Road shooting in 1993, Carolyn McCarthy did more than just grieve. She ran for Congress against the representative who had voted to repeal an assault weapons ban, and she won. While she worked for 18 years in the House of Representatives to improve education and health, she was best known on Capitol Hill as the Gun Lady. McCarthy, who died June 26 at age 81, called gun violence "a cancer in our society. And if we keep doing nothing to stop it, it's only going to spread."

ASTRONAUT

Jim Lovell

Jim Lovell travelled to places few others have gone, flying into space first aboard *Gemini 7* in 1965 and then on *Apollo 8* in 1968 when he, Frank F. Borman, and William Anders became the first humans to circle the moon. TIME named them Men of the Year, and two years later, Lovell, along with John Swigert Jr. and Fred Haise Jr., flew out on *Apollo 13* with the intention of landing on the moon. But on the way, an onboard explosion crippled the lunar mothership, denying them the chance to get their boots dirty with lunar dust. The mission turned into one of survival, with Lovell steering the broken craft home. He recounted the harrowing trip in *Apollo 13*, which he wrote with TIME editor at large Jeffrey Kluger, and which was made into an Oscar-winning film.
The space pioneer died August 7 at age 97.

SINGER

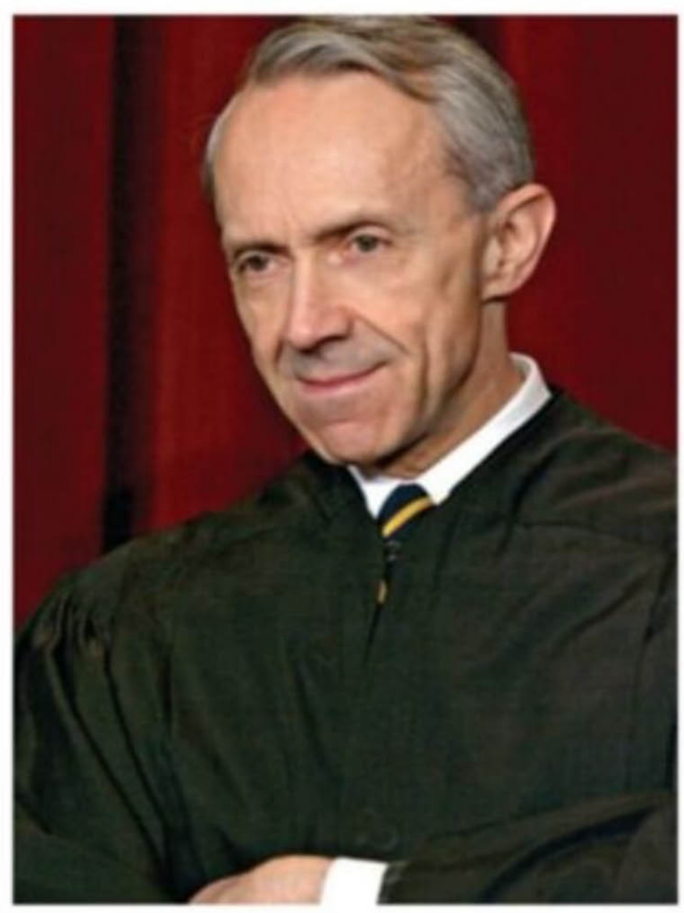
Marianne Faithfull

As a bright-eyed face of the swinging '60s, Marianne Faithfull, who died January 30 at the age of 78, burst onto the scene with the hit single "As Tears Go By." She starred in such films as 1968's *Girl on a Motorcycle* and as muse to the Rolling Stones. Faithfull and boyfriend Mick Jagger were one of the decade's most glamorous couples. Drugs sidelined Faithfull's life and career, but she started performing cabaret, and in 1979, she released the raw, new wave–influenced album *Broken English*. With a voice by then deepened by drug and alcohol use, she sang in the song "Guilt": "I feel guilt, I feel guilt, though I know I've done no wrong." She would go on to release more than 20 albums, including *20th Century Blues*, with songs by such composers as Kurt Weill, and in 2007 published her memoir, *Memories, Dreams and Reflections*. Upon hearing of her passing, Jagger wrote on Instagram, "She was a wonderful friend, a beautiful singer and a great actress."

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

David Souter

Appointed by President George H.W. Bush, David Souter was initially seen as a conservative judge. Yet he proved to be a reliable liberal Supreme Court justice, and his votes on such polarizing issues as abortion incurred the wrath of former supporters. Souter, who retired in 2009 and died May 8 at age 85, avoided discussion of politics. But in 2012, he warned that Americans' general ignorance of government could easily allow an authoritarian leader to take over, saying, "That is the way democracy dies.... An ignorant people can never remain a free people."



ACTOR

Malcolm-Jamal Warner

Malcolm-Jamal Warner shot to fame in the 1980s on the hit sitcom *The Cosby Show*. He was the Cosbys' middle child, Theo, and his graduation from New York University on the show's final episode made the front page of the *New York Times*, with the paper announcing that "Theo Huxtable graduated from NYU yesterday, albeit on videotape, and like a lot of graduations, it was a bittersweet occasion." Warner then appeared in TV shows such as *Malcolm & Eddie* (1996 to 2000) and *The Resident* (2018 to 2023). He was also a spoken-word poet, winning a Grammy in 2015 for his contribution to Stevie Wonder's "Jesus Children of America" from the Robert Glasper Experiment. Warner was 54 when he drowned on July 20 while swimming near Limón, Costa Rica.

WRESTLING IMPRESARIO

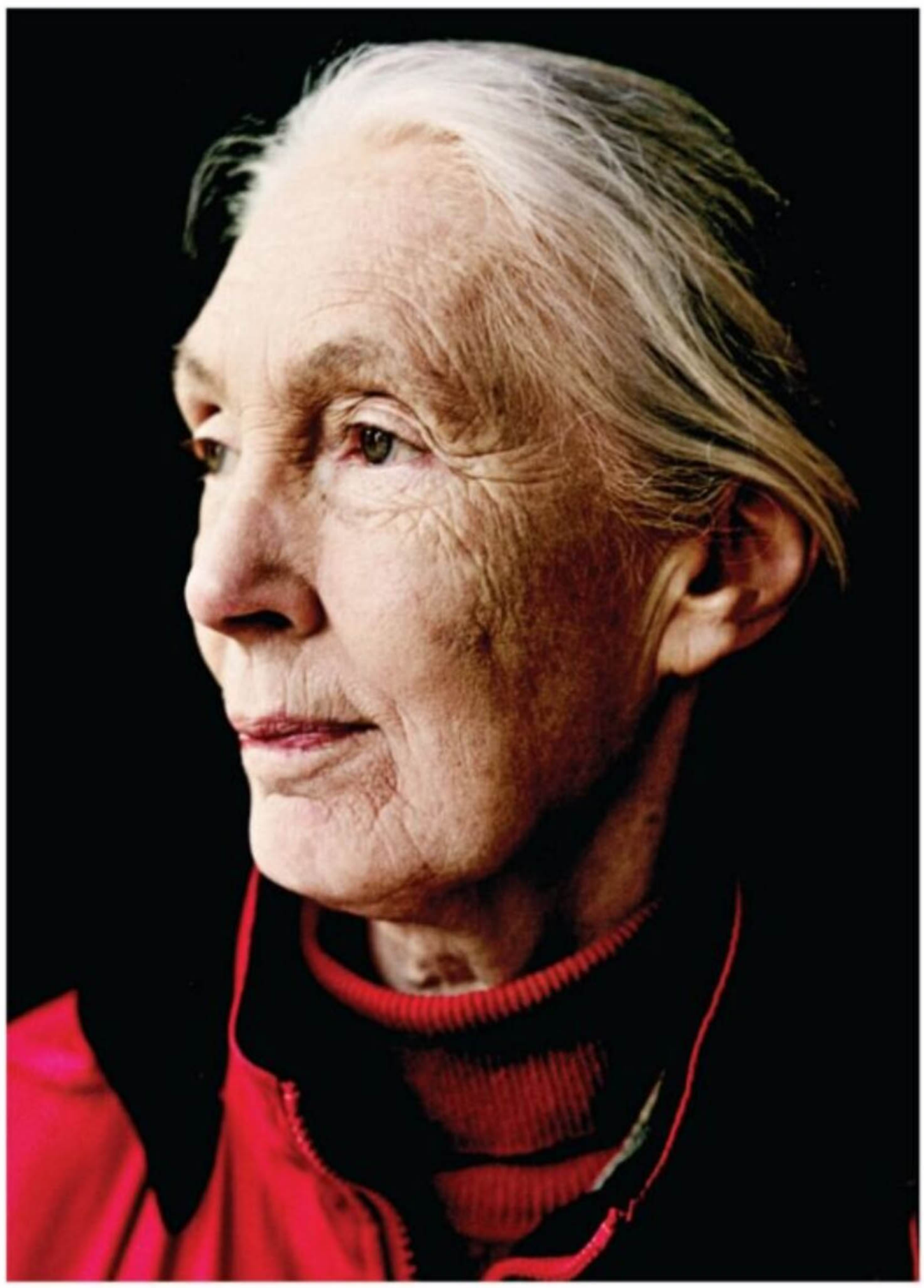
Hulk Hogan

With his signature horseshoe-shaped mustache and shirt-shredding routine, the 6-foot-8, 300-pound Hulk Hogan was a towering behemoth. Born Terry Bollea, Hogan had biceps he called "24-inch pythons" that helped him become a force to be reckoned with while his joyful bravado and antics helped transform professional wrestling into a mainstream business. Crowned World Wrestling Entertainment's biggest star, Hogan led the charge of Hulkamania as he took on everyone from Paul Orndorff in 1985 to Andre the Giant in 1987. The winner of six WWE championships, Hogan also dabbled in movies; for example, he portrayed the character Thunderlips in 1982's *Rocky III*. He passed the torch to the Rock in 2002. A supporter of Donald Trump, Hogan appeared at the 2024 Republican National Convention, where during his speech he ripped off his jacket and shirt to reveal a Trump-Vance tank top. While many wrestling bouts had predetermined winners, Hogan, who died July 24 at age 71, admitted that the bravura and silliness was all for the ring, telling *The 700 Club,* "The moment I come home, the headband comes off the bald head, and it's just Terry: dad, father, husband, friend."

PRIMATOLOGIST

Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall fell in love with the idea of moving to Africa to live among the animals as a child in England after reading Edgar Rice Burroughs' *Tarzan of the Apes*. She met paleontologist Louis Leakey, and despite the fact that she had no college degree, he sent her to Tanzania in 1960 to study chimpanzees. Over the next six decades, Goodall—whom Leakey also helped enroll at Cambridge, where she earned a doctorate in ethology—made groundbreaking discoveries about primates and worked tirelessly to protect the environment. After her death on October 1 at 91, former president Joe Biden posted about the way her "activism, vision, and message of hope mobilized a global movement to protect the planet."



ACTRESS

Claudia Cardinale

She was known as "Italy's girlfriend," an approachable cinematic beauty who grew up in Tunisia speaking French. At age 18, Claudia Cardinale won a trip to the Venice Film Festival. Paparazzi swarmed and photographed her, and when she said she didn't want to become an actress, the press dubbed her "The Girl Who Doesn't Want to Make Movies." But she did want to make movies. Over six decades, Cardinale, who died September 23 at age 87, appeared in more than 150 films, including such acclaimed productions as Luchino Visconti's *The Leopard*, Federico Fellini's *8½*, and Blake Edwards' *The Pink Panther*.

ARCHITECT

Ricardo Scofidio

The abandoned High Line train tracks were a rusting, weed-covered eyesore along Manhattan's west side for decades. But architect Ricardo Scofidio, who died March 6 at age 89, saw a green space cloaked in blight just waiting to be revealed. Beginning in 2009, he transformed the stretch of elevated cargo tracks into a welcoming park that now draws 8 million visitors a year and has galvanized the area's redevelopment. A winner of the MacArthur Foundation's genius grant, Scofidio, anointed one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in 2009, brought a keen sensibility to his work, creating such structures as L.A.'s The Broad museum and redesigning New York's Lincoln Center with his firm Diller Scofidio + Renfro.

ACTOR

Michelle Trachtenberg

When Michelle Trachtenberg appeared in Season 5 of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer,* no one knew what to make of her character. She was initially seen as an annoying interloper. Yet Trachtenberg's adorable, meltingly vulnerable Dawn was quickly embraced by fans. Trachtenberg was a charmer who brought her talents to such parts as the eponymous character in 1996's *Harriet the Spy* and the scheming socialite Georgina Sparks in *Gossip Girl.* She radiated both joy and vulnerability. Following her death on February 26 at 39, her *Gossip Girl* costar Blake Lively wrote, "May her work and her huge heart be remembered by those who were lucky enough to experience her fire."

SINGER

Connie Francis

Connie Francis sang in Italian, Yiddish, Greek, Japanese, and other languages and had a lock on songs about longing. Throughout her career, she sold some 200 million records worldwide. Sixteen of her songs, such as 1958's "Who's Sorry Now," were Top 10 hits, and she had three No. 1 hits, including "Everybody's Somebody's Fool." Francis died July 16 at age 87. Her friend Neil Sedaka, who cowrote such hits as "Where the Boys Are," said on learning of her passing, "What struck me was the purity of the voice, the emotion, the perfect pitch and intonation. It was clear, concise, beautiful. When she sang ballads, they just soared."

ROCKER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Ozzy Osbourne

As the lead singer of Black Sabbath, with such hits as 1970's "War Pigs," Ozzy Osbourne led a group of musicians dubbed "the Beatles of heavy metal." After he was ousted from the band for his outlandish behavior—he bit off the head of a bat during one performance—his solo career took off, with hits like "Crazy Train," and earned him the nickname the Prince of Darkness. He then transformed his image with the hit MTV reality show *The Osbournes,* coming across as a doting husband and father. He performed a farewell show with Black Sabbath on July 4. Upon the news of Osbourne's death on July 22 at age 76, Elton John called his friend a "huge trailblazer who secured his place in the pantheon of rock gods."

MARATHONER AND ADVOCATE

Nina Kuscsik

The Boston Marathon might have banned women, but that didn't stop Nina Kuscsik, who ran the city's streets three times unofficially from 1969 to 1971. When women were officially invited to race in 1972, she won. Kuscsik, who died June 8 at age 86, inspired many women. In 1970, she was the first woman to enter the New York City Marathon. Two years later, she was part of a group who would not start the race for 10 minutes as a protest over the decision that women had to start separately from men. Organizers dropped the rule after a lawsuit.

ACTOR

George Wendt

As the chronically unemployed Norm Peterson on the hit show *Cheers*, George Wendt was a lovable Everyman. The show's theme song called the bar a place "where everybody knows your name," and when his character entered the watering hole, he was always greeted with a resounding "Norm!" Wendt, who died May 20 at age 76, played off the Norm role when he cowrote *Drinking with George: A Barstool Professional's Guide to Beer.*

ABORTION RIGHTS ACTIVIST

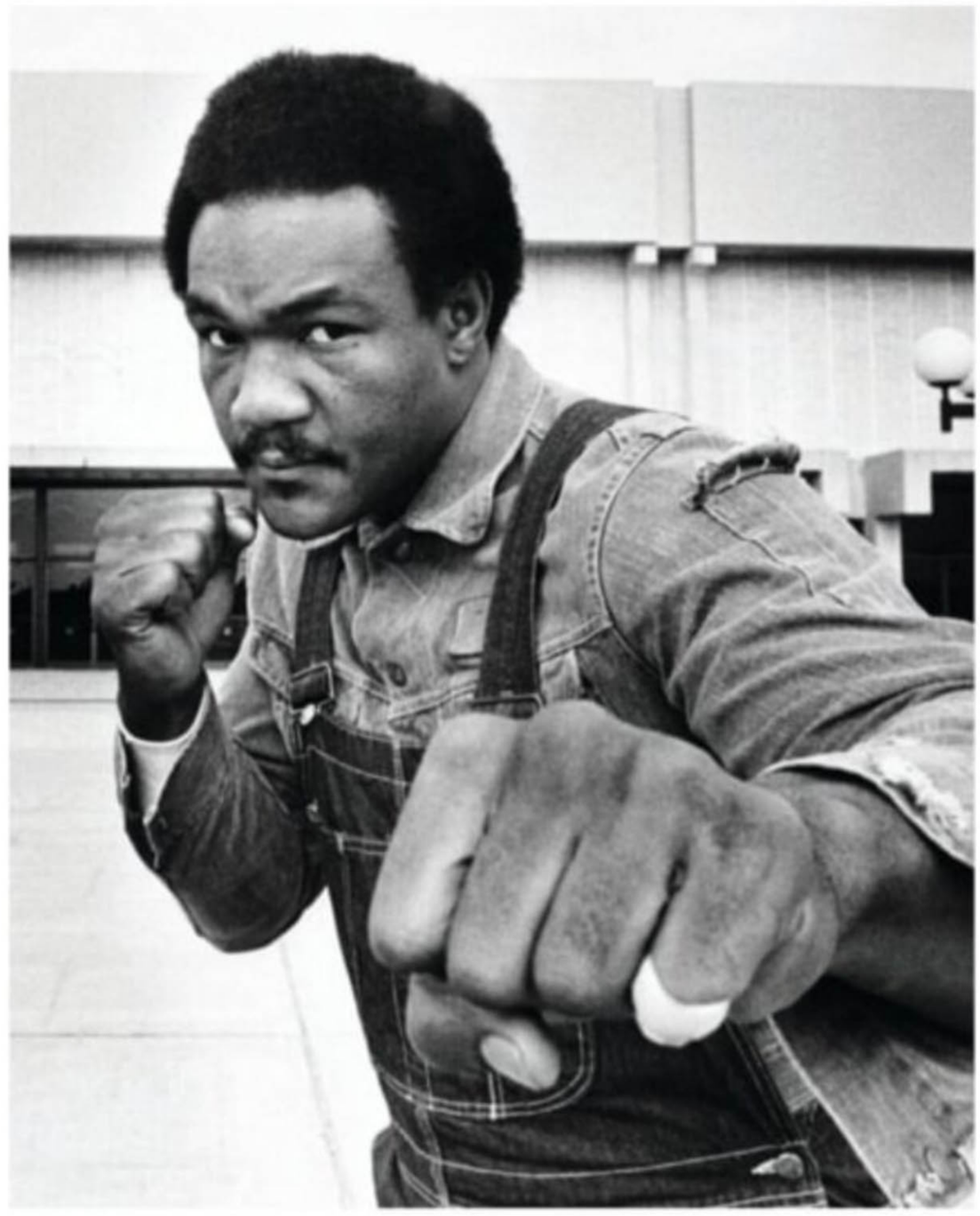
Cecile Richards

Heading up the Planned Parenthood Federation of America from 2006 to 2018, Cecile Richards became one of the country's best known defenders of abortion rights. Despite strong opposition and attacks by opponents of abortion, Richards, who died January 20 at age 67, helped stop efforts by Republican-controlled state legislatures to cut funding and access to abortion services. She steered the group as the country's largest provider for women's sexual and reproductive health, but she also helped it become a potent political organization.

ACTOR

Gene Hackman

Performers want nothing more than for us to believe in them. But to watch Gene Hackman almost always meant wrestling with the feeling that no one and nothing could be trusted. Here was an actor who gravitated toward characters whose core of lies came wrapped in the truth, or vice versa. Critics first noticed Hackman in 1967's *Bonnie and Clyde*, but his greatest performance is as guilt-ridden surveillance expert Harry Caul in 1974's *The Conversation*. No other actor has ever made paranoia so poignant. Hackman died on February 18 at age 95, about six days after his wife, pianist Betsy Arakawa, 65, died from a respiratory disease; their remains were not discovered for more than a week. Said Clint Eastwood, who acted with and directed Hackman in the film *Unforgiven*, "There was no finer actor than Gene. Intense and instinctive. Never a false note."



BOXER AND GRILL MASTER

George Foreman

George Foreman boxed his way to the top, starting as a gold-medal winner at the 1968 Olympics. Then, in a 1973 match up in Kingston, Jamaica, he defeated heavyweight champion "Smokin" Joe Frazier with a blow so brutal that announcer Howard Cosell exclaimed three times, "Down goes Frazier!" He lost the heavyweight belt the following year to Muhammad Ali in Zaire. Soon after, Foreman, who died on March 21 at age 76, doffed his boxing gloves and put on a clerical collar. He returned to the ring a decade later, regaining his crown in 1994 by walloping Michael Moorer to become, at 45, the oldest-ever heavyweight champ. As he told TIME about his reasons for climbing back into the ring, "If an old man like me can come back from the dead, then that is a victory for mankind." In the early 1990s, Foreman lent his name to a barbecue grill, a business decision that made him wealthy, and for the past three decades he served as the smiling face hawking everything from grills to mufflers to Medicare plans.

ACTOR

Val Kilmer

With a brooding gaze and leading-man looks, Val Kilmer, who died on April 1 at age 65, cared about his craft, but never to the point of overacting. He could be roguish and playful but also intensely poetic. As the cocky Iceman in 1986's *Top Gun*, Kilmer's character easily intimidated even Tom Cruise's smirky-confident hotshot Maverick. Iceman might have bragged about being the best, but you couldn't hate him for it. His superiority was self-evident, like the rays of the sun. Kilmer made an equally luminous Doc Holliday in 1993's *Tombstone* and a sultry rock shaman Jim Morrison in 1991's *The Doors*. Diagnosed with throat cancer in 2014, he recovered and could still speak but needed to relearn how to shape words. The 2021 documentary *Val* showed a man whose voice might have been ravaged by cancer but whose mischievous, take-no-prisoners smile hadn't changed much. As Kilmer told the Associated Press In 2021, "I have no regrets. I've witnessed and experienced miracles."

KOREAN ACTIVIST

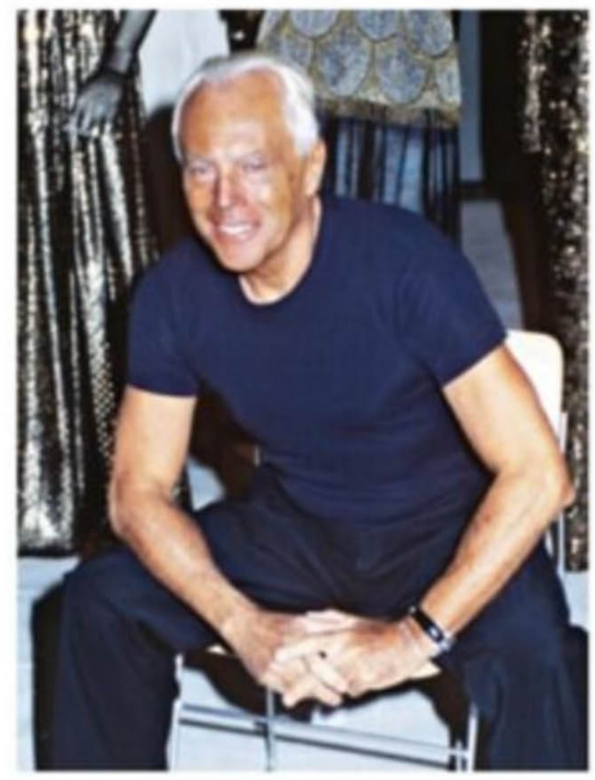
Gil Won-ok

Kidnapped in Harbin, China, by the Japanese during World War II, Gil Won-ok was beaten when she resisted providing sex to soldiers, being told, "You will be dead if you scream." Throughout the war, the teenage Gil, like hundreds of thousands of girls and women from Korea, China, and other occupied nations, was sexually assaulted by the military. In the 1990s, Gil, who died on February 16 at age 96, became an advocate for other victims euphemistically called "comfort women." Known as Grandma Gil, she led weekly protests in Seoul, outside the Japanese embassy, noting in 2003, "We have lived our entire lives in the shadows, without rays of light. All we want is some light in the short time we have left to live." She and other activists demanded an apology and compensation from the Japanese government, something the Japanese only reluctantly offered. In 2012, Gil helped form the Nabi (Butterfly) Fund to help other victims of wartime sexual violence.

MUSICIAN

Ace Frehley

When Ace Frehley helped launch KISS, he and his bandmates knew they needed to stand out. They applied outlandish black-and-white makeup and dressed in outfits straight out of sci-fi flicks. The look worked better than they could have imagined, helping to make KISS one of the biggest rock bands ever. Ace, who was born Paul Frehley and died October 16 at age 74, was known for his driving riffs, as in "New York Groove" on his first solo album. Bandmates Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons recalled him as "an essential and irreplaceable rock soldier."



DESIGNER

Giorgio Armani

Giorgio Armani had planned to become a doctor, but a job as a department-store window dresser changed his life. He channeled his fascination with design and rocketed to mass acclaim when his clothes were featured in the 1980 film *American Gigolo*. The sophisticated aura Armani's suits projected helped land him on the cover of TIME in 1982. For the past four decades, his menswear and sculpted, sparkly evening gowns made regular appearances on red carpets, worn by such celebrities as Lady Gaga, Jodie Foster, and Leonardo DiCaprio. On hearing of his death on September 4 at age 91, Michelle Pfeiffer wrote, "I am heartbroken to hear of Mr. Armani's passing. Kind, generous, and loyal. A true pioneer of elegance. A global inspiration."

Farewell

ACTOR

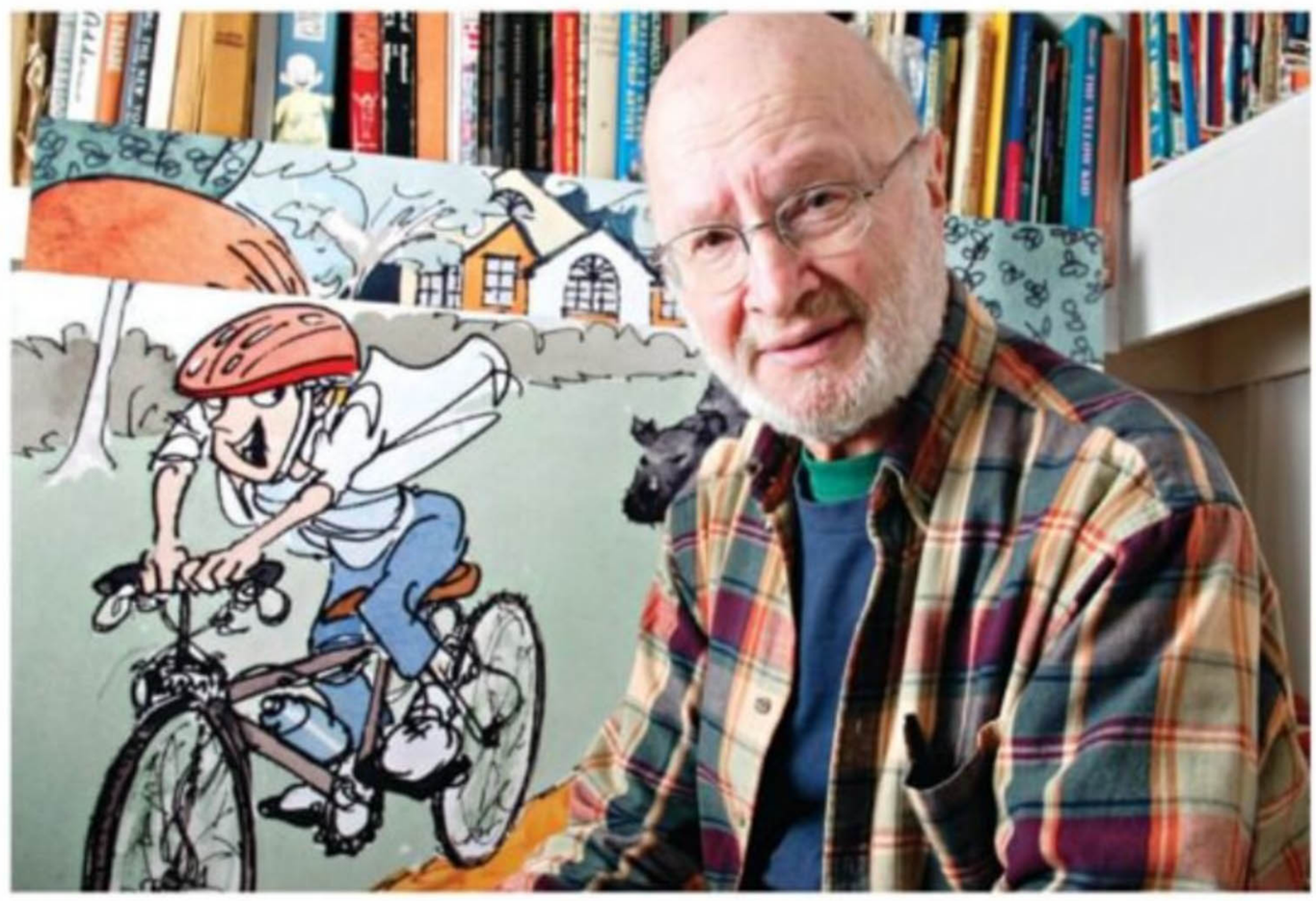
Graham Greene

Graham Greene, who died September 1 at the age of 73, might have been one of the most recognizable Indigenous actors. He was nominated for an Academy Award for his portrayal of Kicking Bird in Kevin Costner's 1990 *Dances with Wolves*, but he took pleasure in not being typecast. As he told *Reader's Digest Canada* in 2017, "I've played old Jewish men, New York police officers, French soldiers." He also recalled how he "stumbled into" acting after starting out "as a carpenter, a welder, a draftsman, a carpet layer, a roadie, and an audio tech." In an acting career that spanned more than four decades, Greene played some 180 roles, appearing in such films as 1995's *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, and won a Grammy for best spoken album for children for *Listen to the Storyteller*. On hearing of his death, Costner said of Greene, "He was a master at work and a wonderful human being."

AUTHOR, PLAYWRIGHT, AND CARTOONIST

Jules Feiffer

The Pulitzer Prize–winning writer and cartoonist Jules Feiffer, who died January 17 at age 95, covered a vast range of topics, from society and childhood to the absurdities of modern life, telling the *South Florida Sentinel*, "My goal is to make people think, to make them feel, and, along the way, to make them smile if not laugh. Humor seems to me one of the best ways of espousing ideas. It gets people to listen with their guard down." In 1956, Feiffer joined New York's alternative weekly *The Village Voice*, and for more than 40 years, his cartoon strips, with their frenetic scribbly lines, offered a satirical take on the city's society, winning him the Pulitzer in 1986. He also illustrated the beloved 1961 children's book *The Phantom Tollbooth* and wrote more than a dozen plays and screenplays, such as the 1971 film *Carnal Knowledge*; contributed to the 1969 Broadway show *Oh! Calcutta!*; and in 1969 won an Obie Award for writing the play *Little Murders*.



ACTOR

Richard Chamberlain

Richard Chamberlain was just 27 when he appeared on the 1960s TV show *Dr. Kildare*. His pretty-boy looks inundated the studio with fan letters. Chamberlain, though, sought to slough off his Adonis patina, trained on the stage, and began making surefire hits in the new genre of TV miniseries. The most successful was his portrayal of a conflicted priest in 1983's *The Thorn Birds*. Chamberlain, who died March 29 at the age of 90, continued to strut the stage, with turns in such Broadway productions as 1987's *Blithe Spirit*.

SINGER

Roberta Flack

No singer defined the silky side of 1970s R&B better than Roberta Flack, who died on February 24 at age 88. A graduate of Howard University, the classically trained Flack taught in a junior high school in Washington, D.C., and sang in nightclubs before cutting her 1969 debut album, *First Take*. That record included the song "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," which was used in the 1971 film *Play Misty for Me*, with Clint Eastwood and Jessica Walter, and later hit No. 1, earning Flack the first of four Grammy Awards. More hits followed, including one of her signature songs, 1973's "Killing Me Softly with His Song"—which won Grammys for record of the year and best female pop vocal performance—and her two duets with Donny Hathaway, 1978's "The Closer I Get to You" and 1972's "Where Is the Love." The latter, which won the Grammy for best pop vocal performance by a duo, group, or chorus, is a breakup song so filled with life that you desperately hope the lovers will find a way. That was Flack's magic: Her conviction shaped every velvety note.

Farewell

PHOTOGRAPHER

Sebastião Salgado

Sebastião Salgado dedicated his life to photographing often invisible people: laborers and the victims of war. He took pictures in more than 120 countries, making images of everything from famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s to the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide in 1994. Mainly taken with black-and-white film, Salgado's photographs were too beautiful to look away from. This was key, since his subjects were often those people didn't want to see: humans laboring in brutal conditions, families trying to find safe haven in hostile terrain, those affected by the decline of the environment. The Brazilian-born Salgado, who died May 23 at age 81, endured land mines, malaria, freezing temperatures, and thousands of miles of barely walkable roads. His photos commanded attention, mesmerizing while they messaged. The most famous, such as those of Brazilian gold miners swarming up and down perilously rickety ladders, are equal parts astonishing and horrifying, a concerto of scale, light, and movement. His blacks are sooty and his whites luminous.

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MILESTONE
96 Courtesy Zoo Miami

A Shell of Himself

The name Goliath suits him. At 517 pounds, he is one strapping Galápagos tortoise. He is also 135 years old. On June 4, he also became known as Dad—when, after 128 days of incubation, an egg laid by his mate, Sweet Pea (believed to be between 85 and 100), hatched at Zoo Miami. Aside from Methuselah, who was reportedly 187 when Lamech was born, Goliath became the oldest known first-time parent. And with his and Sweet Pea's ages adding up to more than 200 years, they might also qualify as the oldest first-time parents. The happy couple still hasn't picked out a name.

BRING US YOUR EAGER SOCCER FANS

The United States was the inaugural host of the expanded 2025 FIFA Club World Cup, which this year went from seven to 32 teams. Ahead of the games, the Manhattan skyline was transformed into a dazzling light show: 1,500 swirling drones created not only the Statue of Liberty's beckoning torch, but also such images as a soccer player making an over-the-head bicycle kick and the tournament's coveted trophy. Matches were held at nearby MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and 11 other spots across the nation. Chelsea beat Paris Saint-Germain in the July 13 final 3–0.